

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies House Committee on
Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,
and Related Agencies House Committee on
Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chair
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Lee:

As you craft legislation making appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2024, we respectfully ask that you prioritize investments in the fight to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) which again is the leading infectious disease killer globally. Thanks to your support, Congress has year on year increased resources for the fight against TB, a clear demonstration of the strong bipartisan support for these programs. With the historic strain on TB programs as the frontline response against airborne infectious diseases, we respectfully request \$1 billion for bilateral TB programming at USAID and \$225 million need for TB programs at the CDC. We again urge you to increase TB funding for fighting this debilitating disease globally and in the U.S., in addition to maintaining your ongoing support for a robust U.S. contribution to the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria—some 20 percent of which supports work on TB.

Many believe TB is a disease of the past, but that is not the case. TB continues to be a public health concern due to a lack of resources to properly identify, treat, and prevent all forms of the disease and develop new, more effective tools to fight TB. In fact, recent years have seen the first increase of tuberculosis sickness and death in decades, with almost 11 million sickened and 1.6 million killed by the disease around the world in 2021. TB kills more people globally than HIV and malaria combined and has alternated with COVID-19 as the leading infectious disease killer over the past 3 years. While TB cases are found annually in all 50 states, 32 states saw an increase in active cases in 2021. Currently, one-quarter of all people worldwide live with latent TB infection.

We have lost over a decade of progress in the fight against TB, putting communities and health systems at risk. This resurgence of TB must be met with redoubled efforts to strengthen our

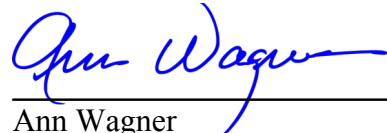
domestic and global efforts to identify, treat, and prevent tuberculosis, including drug resistant TB and TB infection. TB backsliding is further exacerbated when delays or incomplete treatment for TB lead to drug resistance; drug resistant TB is the leading cause of death from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) globally, including multidrug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB which are significantly more difficult and expensive to treat, with higher rates of treatment failure. The current Russian invasion of Ukraine is of particular concern, given that Ukraine has one of the highest burdens of MDR-TB in the world and is currently experiencing shortages of health supplies and care during the humanitarian crisis. Strong funding is critical for research, including efforts to develop new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools.

USAID and the CDC are leading the global and U.S. response to this debilitating and deadly disease, and we are proud that Congress has consistently supported their efforts on a bipartisan basis. In order to put the U.S. back on the path to TB elimination, and to make significant progress towards ending TB globally, we ask you to again support full funding for domestic and international TB programs. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



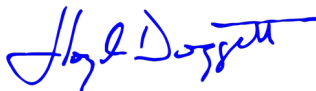
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Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



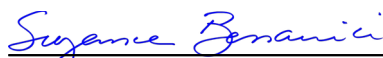
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Lloyd Doggett
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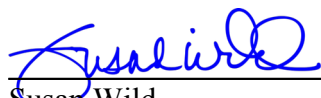
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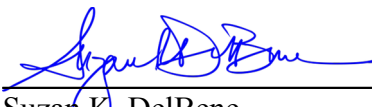
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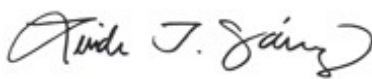
Josh Gottheimer
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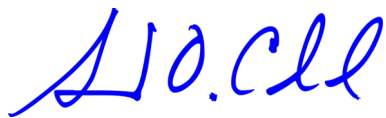
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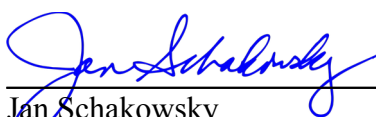
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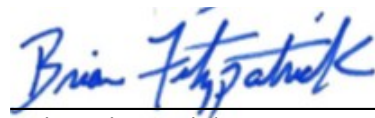
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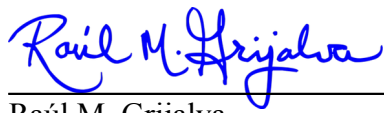
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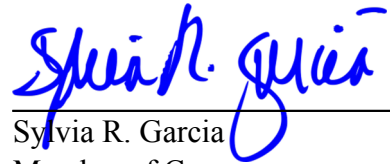
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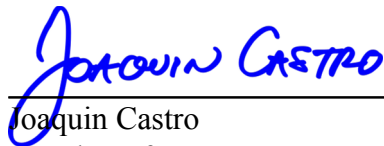
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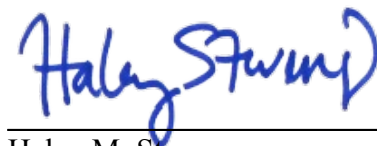
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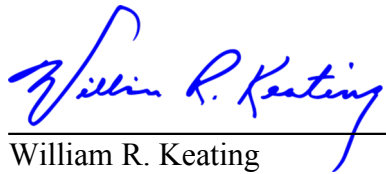
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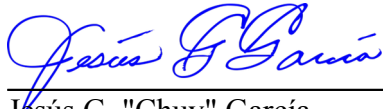
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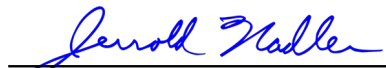
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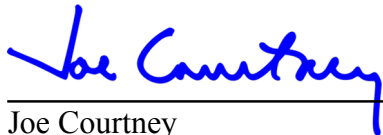
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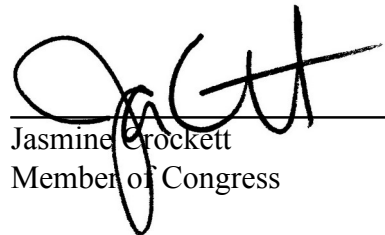
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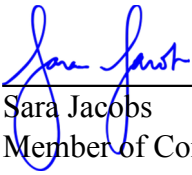
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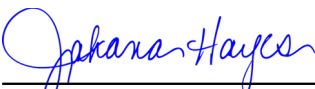
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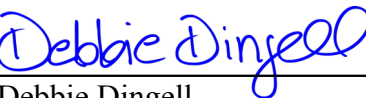
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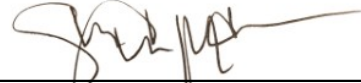
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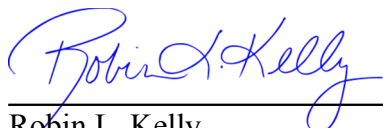
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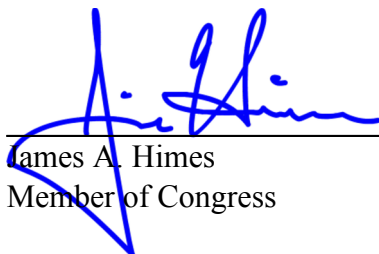
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Earl Blumenauer
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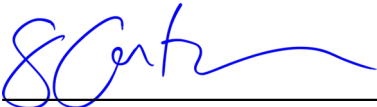
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Chrissy Houlahan
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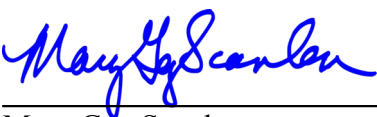
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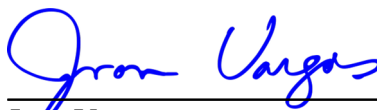
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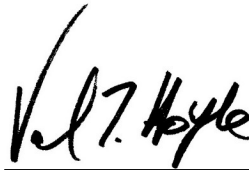
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Shri Thanedar
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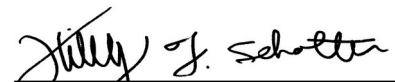
Joe Wilson
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Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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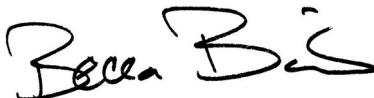
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Zoe Lofgren
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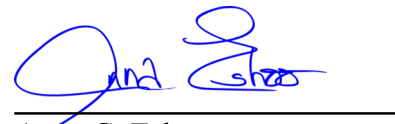
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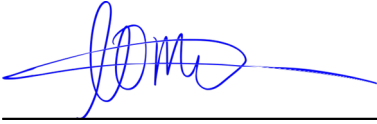
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