The Honorable [MEMBER OF CONGRESS]

[MEMBER OFFICE ADDRESS]

Dear [MEMBER OF CONGRESS]

Thank you for your leadership in supporting global health during these challenging budgetary times. As you know, American assistance has been crucial to achieving major recent advances in international public health. Global health programs have enabled rapid scientific advances in the fight against tuberculosis (TB), which are poised to yield dramatically improved new technologies that will save lives and drastically reduce the cost of treating TB at home and abroad. Without continued US support, these gains will be lost.

The TB pandemic is an under-acknowledged humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, killing 1.4 million people each year, including at least 100,000 children. Current drugs used to treat TB are 50 years old and are failing to control the epidemic.

The situation is has turned especially dire with the emergence drug-resistant TB, which has surfaced in virtually every country in the world including the United States. These resistant strains are extremely difficult and expensive to diagnose and treat. In the United States, treatment for a single case of drug-resistant TB can easily cost $500,000. In resource-poor settings, effective treatment is out of reach for the vast majority of patients. TB and drug-resistant TB pose a communicable, global threat and, in fact, drug-resistant TB is classified by the Department of Health and Human Services as a priority pathogen.

New drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines in development could speed TB treatment while increasing effectiveness and decreasing cost. For example, a new treatment regimen currently being developed by the TB Alliance shows promise to be 80% faster and cheaper than current drug-resistant treatment. These new tools could revolutionize global TB control efforts, save millions of lives and facilitate economic advancement.

The American efforts to spur innovation in the fight against TB span a broad range of agencies, from USAID’s TB programs, the FDA’s Critical Path Programs to the NIH’s AIDS Clinical Trials Group. Investments into these programs have enabled rapid progress and are on the brink of yielding tangible results that will transform the fight against TB.

I strongly encourage you to protect these programs and the development of new tools in the fight against tuberculosis.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]