

November 18, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Vice Chair Leahy, and Ranking Member Granger:

Thank you for your leadership on appropriations and for your ongoing commitment to investing in medical research, public health, including COVID-19 response, and patient care programs. As you and your colleagues work to finalize appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2021, please continue to prioritize meaningful funding increases for critical federal programs and activities focused on respiratory health, including the many programs essential to combatting the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Moreover, please resist adding any divisive policy riders to the FY2021 spending measures that would undermine tobacco control and clean air efforts, or otherwise complicate enacting generous spending bills.

Please continue to consider the American Thoracic Society (ATS) a resource moving forward. For FY 2021, we encourage your support for the following allocations for key programs:

Labor-HHS-Education (L-HHS)

- Please provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with at least \$43.6 billion, as provided by the Senate FY2021 L-HHS Appropriations Bill. Please also provide proportional funding increases for all NIH Institutes and Centers.
 - In addition, we urge Congress to provide \$31 billion in the next COVID-19 supplemental legislation to expand COVID-19-related research, support research grants and supplements through NIH and other federal agencies and support laboratory operating costs and personnel, and additional postdoctoral fellowships and other research training positions. Within this amount, we urge Congress to provide \$300 million for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's COVID-19-related research.

- Please provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with \$7.925 billion as passed by the House FY 2021 L-HHS Appropriations Bill; including:
 - **In the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, establish a line-item program for Chronic Disease Education and Awareness with at least \$3 million in initial support.** This program is included in the FY21 House L-HHS Appropriations Bill at \$3 million and will help implement key COPD activities from the *COPD National Action Plan*.
 - \$240 million for the Office on Smoking and Health
 - \$195.7 million for the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD's and TB Prevention's (NCHHSTP) domestic TB program
 - In addition, we urge Congress to provide \$30 million for CDC's domestic TB program to restore state TB program services following diversions to address COVID-19 and restart costs for some clinics closed due to the pandemic.
 - \$15 million for the Climate and Health program, as provided in the House-passed Labor-HHS bill.
 - \$34 million for the Asthma program.
 - \$344.7 million for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
 - \$9.2 million for the Global Tuberculosis program in the Center for Global Health's Division of Global HIV and TB, as provided by the House-passed Labor-HHS Appropriations bill.

Interior and Environment (Int-Env)

- Please provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with \$9.53 billion, as proposed by the House FY 2021 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
 - Please provide \$84 million for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, as proposed by the House-passed FY 2021 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
 - Please provide \$1.21 billion for the Hazardous Substances Superfund, as proposed by the House FY 2021 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies (SFOPS)

- Please provide \$325 million for the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Tuberculosis program, as provided by the FY2021 Senate State-Foreign Ops. Appropriations bill.
 - In addition, we urge Congress to provide \$200 million for USAID's TB program in the next COVID supplemental legislation to rapidly adapt and restore critical TB services and prevent a dangerous reversal of progress against this global health threat. Within this amount, we urge you to provide \$35 million for the Global TB Drug Facility to ensure the continued provision of life-saving anti-TB medications to highly burdened countries.

JUAN C. CELEDÓN, MD, DrPH, ATSF
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LYNN M. SCHNAPP, MD, ATSF
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JAMES M. BECK, MD, ATSF
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- Please provide \$1.56 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, as proposed by the House FY2021 State-Foreign-Ops Appropriations Bill.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilConVA)

- Please provide the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program with \$840 million, as proposed by the House FY 2021 MilCon-VA Appropriations Bill.

Department of Defense (DoD)

Please provide the stand-alone Peer-Reviewed Lung Cancer Program with \$20 million.

- Please restore tuberculosis to the list of eligible conditions funded under the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program. In addition, we urge that the following conditions continue to be included on the annual eligible conditions list; burn pit exposure, constrictive bronchiolitis, gulf war illness, pulmonary fibrosis and respiratory health.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Juan C. Celedón MD, DrPH, ATSF
President
American Thoracic Society

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