



## **End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act of 2019 (H.R. 3460 / S. 2481)**

**Background:** Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a set of infectious diseases grouped together due to their often chronic, disfiguring and stigmatizing impact. NTDs also have a close association with poverty and their geographic overlap. While there are numerous NTDs in the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) highlights 20 that particularly impact poor, politically marginalized populations; cause significant morbidity and/or mortality; are neglected by research; and can be controlled using effective methods.

In recent years, the U.S. government has affirmed its support for global NTD goals including eradicating, eliminating and controlling several NTDs. Total U.S. funding for NTDs increased from \$15 million in FY 2006, the first year Congress appropriated funds for NTDs, to \$103 million in FY 2019.

**The Problem:** NTDs cause the loss of up to 534,000 lives each year. They create an economic burden through productivity loss and health care costs and impede the ability to attend work, school or function at full capacity.

**The Solution:** The End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act will promote interagency cooperation and public-private partnerships, a successful example of which is the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) NTD Program. Specifically, the bill:

- scales up successful efforts of USAID's NTD program through better planning for and conducting robust monitoring and evaluation of program investments in order to accurately measure impact, identify and share lessons learned and inform future NTD control and elimination strategies;
- encourages the U.S. Global Aids Coordinator to consider the impact of NTDs on efforts to control HIV/AIDS when making programming and policy decisions;
- encourage G-20 countries to significantly increase their role in the control and elimination of NTDs and leverages U.S. leadership at the WHO and United Nations Development Program to increase the priority of ending NTDs.

**Supporters:** The End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act was introduced in the House on June 25, 2019 by Reps. Smith (R-NJ), McCaul (R-TX), Bass (D-CA), Sherman (D-CA), Meeks (D-NY) and Cicilline (D-RI). The House bill passed unanimously out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on June 26, 2019.

In the Senate, the bill was introduced by Sens. Brown (D-OH) and Wicker (R-AL) on September 17, 2019.

**Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Score:** An analysis by the CBO found that "the bill would codify the Administration's existing efforts. As a result, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3460 would not affect the budgets of USAID or the Department of State."