



End Tuberculosis Now Act of 2019 (S.2438)

The Problem: As the global number of cases and deaths from coronavirus (COVID-19) grows each day, there is increased concern about its impact on current Tuberculosis (TB) efforts and the potential impact COVID-19 can have on people who have TB.

TB is the world's most lethal disease. Even though it is a preventable, treatable and curable airborne infection, TB still kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. It is also the leading cause of death among people living with HIV/AIDS.

Without a renewed focus on ending TB, the global epidemic could erase decades of progress in global efforts to end both TB and HIV/AIDS, much of which has been achieved with United States investment.

The Solution: Slowing the spread of COVID-19 is crucial to combating TB. The End Tuberculosis Now Act significantly refocuses U.S. actions on prevention as part of the cure, addresses virulent drug-resistant strains of TB and provides support for the latest best practices and technologies in the areas of diagnosis and treatment. Specifically, the bill:

- **establishes new goals for United States efforts**, and employs new prevention and treatment efforts based on the latest scientific data, best practices and indicators required to ramp-up access to vulnerable populations. These efforts would increase the number of those on treatment and improve prevention for all forms of tuberculosis globally;
- **increases accountability and transparency through the establishment of independent accountability mechanisms**, to include inclusive country-level systems that measure progress and ensure that commitments made by governments and relevant stakeholders are met;
- **reduces the duplication of efforts** and encourages equitable shares in domestic and international expenditure,
- authorizes increased assistance to the End TB Strategy and the Stop TB Partnership **ensuring that limited U.S. resources are leveraged** across multilateral partnerships, and
- directs the appropriate **integration and coordination of TB services** into other United States-supported health programs across relevant federal agencies.

Supporters: The End Tuberculosis Now Act was introduced on Aug. 1, 2019 by Sens. Menendez (D-NJ) and Young (R-IN).