

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2465

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 28, 2006

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stop Tuberculosis
5 (TB) Now Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Tuberculosis is one of the greatest infec-
9 tious causes of death of adults worldwide, killing

1 nearly 2,000,000 people per year—one person every
2 15 seconds.

3 (2) One-third of the world's population is in-
4 fected with the tuberculosis bacterium and an esti-
5 mated 9,000,000 individuals develop active tuber-
6 culosis each year.

7 (3) Tuberculosis is the leading killer among in-
8 dividuals who are HIV-positive due to their weak-
9 ened immune systems, and it is estimated that one-
10 third of people with HIV infection have tuberculosis.

11 (4) Today, tuberculosis is a leading killer of
12 women of reproductive age.

13 (5) There are 22 countries that account for 80
14 percent of the world's burden of tuberculosis. The
15 People's Republic of China and India account for 35
16 percent of all estimated new tuberculosis cases each
17 year.

18 (6) Driven by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, inci-
19 dence rates of tuberculosis in Africa have more than
20 doubled on average since 1990, making it the only
21 region in the world in which tuberculosis rates are
22 not currently stabilized or declining. The problem is
23 so pervasive that in August 2005, African Health
24 Ministers and the World Health Organization

1 (WHO) declared tuberculosis to be an emergency in
2 Africa.

3 (7) The wide extent of drug resistance, includ-
4 ing multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), in
5 Eastern Europe and other parts of the world rep-
6 resents a critical challenge to the global control of
7 tuberculosis. Drug resistance surveillance reports
8 have confirmed the serious scale and spread of tu-
9 berculosis in Eastern Europe with tuberculosis
10 strains often resistant to all first line drugs and also
11 to some second line drugs.

12 (8) With more than 50 percent of tuberculosis
13 cases in the United States attributable to foreign-
14 born individuals and with the increase in inter-
15 national travel, commerce, and migration, elimi-
16 nation of tuberculosis in the United States depends
17 on efforts to control the disease in developing coun-
18 tries. Recent research has shown that to invest in
19 tuberculosis control abroad, where treatment and
20 program costs are significantly cheaper than in the
21 United States, would be a cost-effective strategy to
22 reduce tuberculosis-related morbidity and mortality
23 domestically.

24 (9) The threat that tuberculosis poses for
25 Americans derives from the global spread of tuber-

culosis and the emergence and spread of strains of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, which is far more deadly, and more difficult and costly to treat.

(10) DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-course) is one of the most cost-effective health interventions available today and is a core component of the new Stop TB Strategy.

(11) The Stop TB Strategy, developed by the World Health Organization, builds on the success of DOTS and ongoing challenges so as to serve all those in need and reach targets for prevalence, mortality, and incidence reduction. The Stop TB Strategy includes six components:

(A) Pursuing high-quality expansion and enhancement of DOTS coverage.

(B) Implementing tuberculosis and HIV collaborative activities, preventing, and controlling multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, and addressing other special challenges.

(C) Contributing to the strengthening of health systems.

(D) Engaging all health care providers, including promotion of the International Standards for Tuberculosis Care.

1 (E) Empowering individuals with tuber-
2 culosis and communities.

3 (F) Enabling and promoting research to
4 develop new diagnostics, drugs, vaccines, and
5 program-based operational research relating to
6 tuberculosis.

7 (12) The Global Plan to Stop TB 2006–2015:
8 Actions for Life is a comprehensive plan developed
9 by the Stop TB Partnership that sets out the ac-
10 tions necessary to achieve the millennium develop-
11 ment goal of cutting tuberculosis deaths and disease
12 burden in half by 2015 and thus eliminate tuber-
13 culosis as a global health problem by 2050.

14 (13) While innovations such as the Global Tu-
15 berculosis Drug Facility have enabled low-income
16 countries to treat a standard case of tuberculosis
17 with drugs that cost as little as \$16 for a full six-
18 month course of treatment, there are still millions of
19 individuals with no access to effective treatment.

20 (14) As the global resource investment in fight-
21 ing tuberculosis increases, partner nations and inter-
22 national institutions must commit to a cor-
23 responding increase in the technical and program as-
24 sistance necessary to ensure that the most effective
25 and efficient tuberculosis treatments are provided.

1 (15) The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuber-
2 culosis and Malaria is an important global partner-
3 ship established to combat these three infectious dis-
4 eases that together kill millions of people a year. Ex-
5 pansion of effective tuberculosis treatment programs
6 constitutes a major component of Global Fund in-
7 vestment, along with integrated efforts to address
8 HIV and tuberculosis in areas of high prevalence.

9 (16) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
10 vention (CDC) is actively involved with global tuber-
11 culosis control efforts since the global tuberculosis
12 epidemic directly impacts tuberculosis in the United
13 States, and because Congress has strongly urged the
14 CDC each year to increase its involvement with
15 international tuberculosis control efforts.

16 (17) The CDC is assisting countries with a high
17 burden of tuberculosis to—

18 (A) implement the World Health Organiza-
19 tion-recommended control strategies by improv-
20 ing the capacity to diagnose and cure individ-
21 uals with tuberculosis;

22 (B) improve the capacity to diagnose,
23 treat, and prevent tuberculosis in HIV-infected
24 individuals and individuals with multi-drug re-
25 sistant tuberculosis; and

1 (C) conduct programmatically-relevant
2 operational research to identify and evaluate
3 new diagnostics, treatment regimes, and inter-
4 ventions to control tuberculosis.

5 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS.**

6 (a) POLICY.—Section 104B(b) of the Foreign Assist-
7 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b–3(b)) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 “(b) POLICY.—It is a major objective of the foreign
10 assistance program of the United States to control tuber-
11 culosis. In all countries in which the United States Agency
12 for International Development has established develop-
13 ment programs, the following goals in the battle against
14 tuberculosis should be achieved by not later than Decem-
15 ber 31, 2015:

16 “(1) Reduce by half the tuberculosis death and
17 disease burden from the 1990 baseline.

18 “(2) Sustain or exceed the detection of at least
19 70 percent of cases of tuberculosis infection and the
20 cure of at least 85 percent of those cases detected.”.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 104B(c) of the For-
22 eign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b–3(c)) is
23 amended by striking “is authorized to” and inserting
24 “shall”.

1 (c) PRIORITY TO STOP TB STRATEGY.—Section
 2 104B(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
 3 2151b–3(e)) is amended—

4 (1) in the heading, to read as follows: “PRI-
 5 ORITY TO STOP TB STRATEGY.—”;

6 (2) in the first sentence, by striking “In fur-
 7 nishing” and all that follows through “, including
 8 funding” and inserting the following:

9 “(1) PRIORITY.—In furnishing assistance under
 10 subsection (c), the President shall give priority to—

11 “(A) activities described in the Stop TB
 12 Strategy, including expansion and enhancement
 13 of DOTS coverage, treatment for individuals in-
 14 fected with both tuberculosis and HIV and
 15 treatment for individuals with multi-drug resist-
 16 ant tuberculosis (MDR–TB), strengthening of
 17 health systems, use of the International Stand-
 18 ards for Tuberculosis Care by all providers, em-
 19 powering individuals with tuberculosis, and ena-
 20 bling and promoting research to develop new
 21 diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines, and program-
 22 based operational research relating to tuber-
 23 culosis; and

24 “(B) funding”; and

25 (3) in the second sentence—

1 (A) by striking “In order to” and all that
 2 follows through “not less than” and inserting
 3 the following:

4 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—In order to
 5 meet the requirements of paragraph (1), the Presi-
 6 dent—

7 “(A) shall ensure that not less than”;

8 (B) by striking “for Directly Observed
 9 Treatment Short-course (DOTS) coverage and
 10 treatment of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis
 11 using DOTS-Plus,” and inserting “to imple-
 12 ment the Stop TB Strategy; and”;

13 (C) by striking “including” and all that
 14 follows and inserting the following:

15 “(B) should ensure that not less than
 16 \$15,000,000 of the amount made available to
 17 carry out this section for a fiscal year is used
 18 to make a contribution to the Global Tuber-
 19 culosis Drug Facility.”.

20 (d) ASSISTANCE FOR WHO AND THE STOP TUBER-
 21 CULOSIS PARTNERSHIP.—Section 104B of the Foreign
 22 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b–3) is amend-
 23 ed—

24 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
 25 section (g); and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
2 lowing new subsection:

3 “(f) ASSISTANCE FOR WHO AND THE STOP TUBER-
4 CULOSIS PARTNERSHIP.—In carrying out this section, the
5 President, acting through the Administrator of the United
6 States Agency for International Development, is author-
7 ized to provide increased resources to the World Health
8 Organization (WHO) and the Stop Tuberculosis Partner-
9 ship to improve the capacity of countries with high rates
10 of tuberculosis and other affected countries to implement
11 the Stop TB Strategy.”.

12 (e) DEFINITIONS.—Section 104B(g) of the Foreign
13 Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated by subsection
14 (d)(1), is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end be-
16 fore the period the following: “, including low cost
17 and effective diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of
18 tuberculosis, as well as a reliable drug supply, and
19 a management strategy for public health systems,
20 with health system strengthening, promotion of the
21 use of the International Standards for Tuberculosis
22 Care by all care providers, bacteriology under an ex-
23 ternal quality assessment framework, short-course
24 chemotherapy, and sound reporting and recording
25 systems”; and

1 (2) by adding after paragraph (5) the following
2 new paragraph:

3 “(6) STOP TB STRATEGY.—The term ‘Stop TB
4 Strategy’ means the strategy described in the Global
5 Plan to Stop TB 2006–2015: Actions for Life, a
6 comprehensive plan developed by the Stop Tuber-
7 culosis Partnership that sets out the actions nec-
8 essary to achieve the millennium development goal of
9 cutting tuberculosis deaths and disease burden in
10 half by 2015.”.

11 (f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 104A(e)(2)(C)(iii) of
12 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b–
13 2(e)(2)(C)(iii)) is amended by adding at the end before
14 the semicolon the following: “, including the percentage
15 of such United States foreign assistance provided for diag-
16 nosis and treatment of individuals with tuberculosis in
17 countries with the highest rates of tuberculosis, as deter-
18 mined by the World Health Organization (WHO)”.

19 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the President not less
21 than \$225,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and not less than
22 \$260,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 to carry out section
23 104B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
24 2151b–3), as amended by subsections (a) through (e) of
25 this section.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR GLOB-**
2 **AL TUBERCULOSIS ACTIVITIES OF THE CEN-**
3 **TERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVEN-**
4 **TION.**

5 For the purpose of carrying out global tuberculosis
6 activities through the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention, there are authorized to be appropriated
8 \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and such sums as may
9 be necessary for fiscal year 2008. Such authorization of
10 appropriations is in addition to other authorizations of ap-
11 propriations that are available for such purposes. Amounts
12 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-
13 tions under this section shall remain available until ex-
14 pended.

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