March 24, 2016

Dear Representative Cardenas,

Tuberculosis (TB) has caused more deaths than any other infectious disease in human history and still causes more than 1 million deaths world-wide each year. TB is not just a problem in other countries. In California, each year over 2,000 people develop active TB and ten percent of them will die from this preventable, curable disease. Ranking California TB data by number of cases, deaths, drug resistance, and TB in children, your district is in the top tencompared to all California congressional districts.

**District 29 is tied for sixth for multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB** compared to all other California Congressional Districts.

Attached is the table showing the 22 congressional district ranking in the top ten for these variables. Also attached is the California Department of Public Health TB Fact Sheet for 2015.

We ask that you join in the fight to eliminate this disease affecting the public’s health in your district by joining the Tuberculosis Elimination Caucus co-chaired by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NJ), Rep. Gene Green (D-TX), and Rep. Don Young (R-AK). Members from California include Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Mike Honda, Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Rep. Ami Bera.

We also ask that you fully fund the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act. In order to put the United States back on the path to TB elimination, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s domestic TB program must be fully funded at $243 million in FY2017. Funds need to be allocated to public health programs to intensify testing and treatment of the large group of Californians with latent TB infection to prevent the disease from occurring and to get back on track stopping TB.

For more information about TB in your district, please contact the TB Controller for your local health department. Their contact information can be found on the California TB Controllers website at: <http://ctca.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&page_id=5071>.

Working to eliminate TB is imperative to prevent more cases of TB within California and to improve the health of our community. To ensure that TB is truly eliminated in the United States, we can’t be passive. We must *Unite to End TB*.