



Dear \_\_\_:

The Coalition for a TB-free California urges Representative \_\_\_ to join the bipartisan Congressional Tuberculosis Elimination Caucus, co-chaired by Representative Ami Bera, MD (CA-07) Representative Don Young (AK-At Large), and Senator Sherrod Brown (OH). The Tuberculosis Elimination Caucus works to ensure Members of Congress and their staff stay informed about tuberculosis in the U.S. and globally and to show support for eliminating the disease.

Tuberculosis kills one out of six people diagnosed in California and killed 1.4 million people around the world in 2020. In California's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, 34 people were diagnosed with tuberculosis between 2015-2019.

Tuberculosis is airborne and was the world's most deadly infectious disease prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected to be again, following the COVID-19 pandemic response.

In April, the [California TB Controllers Association](#) (CTCA) and the [Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations](#) (AAPCHO) hosted a webinar to public health staff and their community partners to provide information about the impact of disease on California and at-risk populations. The following details were shared:

- 1,703 Californians were diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2020.
- 84% of those diagnosed with tuberculosis in California in 2020 were born outside of the U.S.
- 52% identified as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander (AANHPI).
- There are more than 2 million individuals living with Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) and are likely unaware of it. A person with LTBI has no symptoms and is not contagious. However, LTBI can develop into active tuberculosis **at any time**.
- 85% of active tuberculosis diagnosed in California is due to LTBI progression, which is preventable.
- Preventing this deadly airborne infectious disease from threatening Californians requires identification and treatment of LTBI before it becomes active tuberculosis.

Attached are tuberculosis data for each Congressional District, between 2015 and 2019, and [this link](#) will bring you to the 2020 California tuberculosis data snapshot and county data.

If your boss is interested in joining the Tuberculosis Elimination Caucus, please email Colleen Nguyen (Rep. Bera) at [colleen.nguyen@mail.house.gov](mailto:colleen.nguyen@mail.house.gov) or Jesse Vonstein (Rep. Young) at [jesse.vonstein@house.gov](mailto:jesse.vonstein@house.gov).

Please let me know if you would like more information about tuberculosis in your district, or to speak with public health tuberculosis programs in your district.

Thank you for your work in D.C. for the health and wellbeing of those in your district and all Californians.

Sincerely,

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