

For Immediate Release
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**Statement of UN Special Envoy on Tuberculosis Eric P. Goosby
on the Release of the President's FY2017 Budget**

Tuberculosis is now the number one infectious disease killer on the planet, surpassing HIV/AIDS. 4,100 people die each day from TB – 1.5 million people a year. That's why it is astonishing that funding for the disease, which takes the most lives around the globe, was severely cut in the Administration's FY 2017 budget.

A strong Administration investment could have helped put us on track to turn the tide on TB. There must be a shared responsibility among all parties to prevent, test, treat and cure TB. Currently, nations burdened by TB contribute 87% of the total budget to tackle the disease. These nations need the U.S., other donor nations and the private sector to step up to the plate if we are to heed the call of the Sustainable Development Goals to end TB by 2030. Without this support, countless more people will die from a disease that is curable. Furthermore, we will never achieve universal health coverage until a strengthened and sustained path is forged to address TB head on.

TB is not only the world's problem, it is America's problem. We cannot close our eyes to the fact that we have not eradicated TB in the U.S. We need to look no further than Marion, Alabama where TB is worse than in many developing nations. Moreover, with Ebola and now the Zika virus, we know first-hand how quickly our nation can be confronted by a serious health threat. And TB can spread like wildfire without testing and treatment.

The TB community was buoyed by the release of the White House Report on MDR-TB in December. However, to turn the report into more than words on a page, resources are needed. While the Administration has decided once again to cut funding, Congress has the opportunity to truly turn the tide by continuing its strong support for ridding the world from TB. I applaud Congress for standing up for TB funding for years and urge members to do the same this year. Our world needs it now more than ever.