

communicable disease—tuberculosis (TB). I, like many of you, thought we had this scourge under control since the development of antibiotics more than 40 years ago.

However, TB is a real problem here and abroad. It is a disease that knows no borders—because of the ease of transmission of TB, its growth abroad poses a real public health threat to nations like the United States that had previously controlled TB.

Our bill will authorize \$60 million in FY 2001 to help control this deadly disease. This bill calls for a coordinated effort to wipe out this disease and sets goals for the detection and cure.

The statistics surrounding tuberculosis are terrifying. TB kills almost 2 million people abroad every year. The rate of infection abroad is increasing each year and TB is transmitted as easily as the common cold. Every second someone is infected with TB. Further, TB is the leading killer of women, more than any single cause of maternal mortality. This has an enormous impact on families and the very social fabric of a society. TB is the leading cause of death among HIV-positive individuals. It accounts for almost one-third of AIDS deaths worldwide.

Many TB cases are easily treatable by a six-month antibiotic regimen. Tragically, this regimen is only used in 15% of TB cases worldwide. An untreated person with active TB will infect 10–15 people per year. TB control programs are underfunded and poorly organized in many countries. Since millions of people travel between the U.S. and other nations daily, we must develop stable country-specific programs that will control this disease.

I believe that our bill is a good strong step towards ending TB here and abroad and I look forward to working with my colleague from California on this legislation. I ask all my colleagues in the Senate to support his important legislation.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise as a proud cosponsor of legislation the Senator from California, Senator BOXER, is introducing today, the “International Tuberculosis Act of 1999.” This bill seeks to control the growing international problem of tuberculosis.

Mr. President, we cannot stand idly by while tuberculosis kills more people worldwide than AIDS and malaria combined, and yet still receives substantially less attention and aid dollars.

Although the introduction of antibiotics in the 1950’s led to the near eradication of tuberculosis, it still plagues many nations throughout the world. In 1993 the World Health Organization declared tuberculosis to be a public health emergency, with an estimated 1,700 million people, or nearly one third of the world’s population, infected with the tubercle bacillus. The World Health Organization estimates

that eight million people get TB every year, and an estimated 3 million die from the disease annually.

Mr. President, the registered number of new cases of TB worldwide roughly correlates with economic conditions: the highest incidences are seen in those countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America with the lowest gross national products. We must now face the realization that without much needed aid, most of the countries with a high burden of TB will not be able to reach the targets for TB control established by the World Health Assembly for the year 2000. In human terms, this means that each year millions of lives could be lost due to a preventable and curable disease.

Thankfully, Mr. President, efforts to combat this terrible disease have been largely successful inside U.S. borders. In my own State of New Jersey, the number of people with active tuberculosis has declined each year for the past six years. But the problem still persists. Each year over 25,000 people in the United States contract TB. The treat of infection here in America still looms large for anyone who travels abroad or comes into contact with those who have recently traveled outside the United States. This disease does not discriminate: People of all ages, all nationalities and all incomes can get tuberculosis.

An airborne disease that can be spread through a simple cough, TB can be carried around the world in a matter of hours on a transcontinental flight. Nearly 40 percent of TB cases in the U.S. are attributable to foreign-born persons. Until TB is eradicated worldwide, no person—no American—will ever be safe from its affliction.

Only small steps have been taken to eradicate TB outside the United States. Medical experts estimate that over \$1 billion is necessary to control TB. This money will allow scientists and doctors to take the necessary steps to wipe out this disease, much like the world community has already done with malaria and small pox. The longer we wait, the larger the TB population will be. This translates into higher costs to eradicate this debilitating disease. International organizations note that for every dollar spent on prevention, a nation saves between three and four dollars in treatment.

Mr. President, TB control efforts have received approximately \$12 million a year for the last two fiscal years under USAID’s Infectious Disease Initiative to create a TB Global Action Plan. However, this is not enough; an increase in funding is critical if tuberculosis is to be vanquished. The U.S. must do its part.

An increase in funding to \$60 million for TB would help expedite global action, and give aid officials the necessary resources to develop and implement country specific plans for control

programs for nations with a high prevalence of TB. Once a plan is implemented, it is necessary to formulate a systematic program to avoid increases of drug resistant strains of TB.

A plan, coordinated with the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health and other organizations, will expand and provide a framework for enhanced direction and coordination of worldwide tuberculosis research activities, translate research results into efficient and effective TB control practices which are applicable to all environments, and engage society and government control programs more quickly and widely.

The American Lung Association, American Thoracic Society and International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and other renowned organizations support an increase in funding for TB prevention.

Mr. President, a global TB prevention effort makes sense. The benefits outweigh the costs. Given the importance of a global plan to eradicate TB, and its potential in saving lives, I urge the Senate to approve this bill.

Mr. President, tuberculosis is a global problem. We will never control TB in this country until we control it worldwide, since infectious diseases do not stop at the border. I commend the Senator from California for introducing this important and timely legislation to address tuberculosis effectively now. I hope and believe this bill will gain the support of the full Senate.

I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 285

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 343

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for 100 percent of the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. KERREY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 391, a bill to provide for payments to children’s hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 622, a bill to enhance Federal enforcement of hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide for the establishment and operation of asthma treatment services for children, and for other purposes.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a public response to the public health crisis of pain, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to promote access to health care services in rural areas.

S. 1072

At the request of Mr. EDWARDS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1072, a bill to make certain technical and other corrections relating to the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (36 U.S.C. 143 note; 112 Stat. 3486 et seq.).

S. 1144

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1144, a bill to provide increased flexibility in use of highway funding, and for other purposes.

S. 1185

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1185, a bill to provide small business certain protections from litigation excesses and to limit the product liability of non-manufacturer product sellers.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to ensure the liberties of the people by promoting federalism, to protect the reserved powers of the States, to impose accountability for Federal preemption of State and local laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1255

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1255, a bill to protect consumers and promote electronic commerce by amending certain trademark infringement, dilution, and counterfeiting laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1263

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1263, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to limit the reductions in medicare payments under the prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1272, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to promote pain management and palliative care without permitting assisted suicide and euthanasia, and for other purposes.

S. 1310

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1310, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the interim payment system for home health services, and for other purposes.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the disclosure of certain tax information by the Secretary of the Treasury to facilitate combined Federal and State employment tax reporting, and for other purposes.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to expand homeownership in the United States.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to promote economic growth and opportunity by increasing the level of visas available for highly specialized scientists and engineers and by eliminating the earnings penalty on senior citizens who continue to work after reaching retirement age.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to amend section 2007 of the Social Security Act to provide grant funding for additional Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Strategic Planning Communities, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 34, A concurrent resolution relating to the observance of "In Memory" Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 95

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 95, a resolution designating August 16, 1999, as "National Airborne Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 108

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 108, A resolution designating the month of March each year as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month."

AMENDMENT NO. 1495

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1495 intended to be proposed to S. 1233, an original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE CONTINUOUS REPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY, AND OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS, IN IRAN, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE RECENT REPRESSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT OF IRAN

Mr. BROWBACK (for Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HELMS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MACK, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 50

Whereas freedom of expression and assembly, individual human rights, and pursuit of democratic ideals have been systematically repressed by the government of Iran;

Whereas in recent months several members of the press and other individuals who peacefully criticized the policies of the Islamic