

The Daily Review

# Opinion

dailyreviewonline.com

**WEDNESDAY**  
March 7, 2007

**Editorial director:**  
(925) 416-4852  
Fax: (925) 416-4850

**LOCAL 7**

## **TB remains a danger to Californians**

March 24 marks World TB Day — a day most Californians pay little attention to. We all know that TB is a disease of the past; of poverty in mostly overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. It kills almost 2 million people in developing countries each year, but we are a developed country and besides, the U.S. practically eliminated TB in the 1980s. Why worry?

Californians need to worry. We have a

crumbling and overburdened, underfunded health care infrastructure; there is a national upsurge in new cases of TB; California has one of the highest rates in the nation and with many immigrants coming to our areas without proper documents and many with little or no proper health care, they are at risk of carrying new and emerging Extremely Drug Resistant Tuberculosis, which despite all efforts has killed victims within two weeks and can spread to each and every one of us.

In the 1980s, New York City experienced an upsurge of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis, which cost over \$5 million just to bring under control.

Each of us must contact our Congressional representatives; remind them that in 2000 we joined nations around the world in agreeing to the Millennium Development Goals, which focus on global health. It is time for the U.S. to pay its fair share and support the Global Fund to end HIV, Malaria, TB and Bilateral TB programs.

Encourage your member of congress to support and cosponsor legislation and direct our precious dollars to these humanitarian, urgent issues. Think about it: TB exists in every one of our states, and failure to control TB everywhere will make it impossible to control here.

**Gail Dolson, R.N., M.S.**  
San Leandro

SAN LEANDRO/HAYWARD CA / RESULTS OAKLAND