

Oakland Tribune

April 18 letters to the editor

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Officials must expand public health funding

Thanks to the paper for covering the recent meeting of California TB controllers, which was held in Oakland on World TB Day, March 26. Although TB is the biggest killer of people with HIV/AIDS globally, the article pointed out that TB rates have declined in California and is largely found among foreign born.

I would also point out that TB knows no borders and is becoming increasingly drug-resistant, although most cases are curable if people have access to testing, treatment and health care.

Our California public health departments do a great job, but they are struggling. Without continual public health programs, TB, polio and other epidemics will rebound and research and treatment programs cannot take their funding for granted.

I ask readers and the paper to let Gov. Jerry Brown, your Assembly members and state senators know of your support for expanded funding for public health programs in the California 2015 budgets.

Ask your members of Congress to support funding for global and domestic public health in our 2015 federal budget.

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