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TB is global threat that needs funding

The news about drug-resistant tuberculosis raises new concerns as to how far and fast the disease is spreading. Extremely Drug Resistant (XDR) TB has now been found in 45 countries. The extent of the problem could well be grossly underestimated, as most African nations lack the capacity to test for drug-resistant TB, especially XDR-TB. Drug-resistant TB is flourishing because the world has failed to adequately detect and treat normal TB. Due to global trade and travel, this is a threat to Silicon Valley. In our interconnected world, TB anywhere is TB everywhere. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is currently being reauthorized by Congress, and should include funding to stop TB, the biggest killer of people with AIDS. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer should urge their colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee to include TB funding in the reauthorization of the emergency AIDS-relief program.

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