



July 2026

Greetings! On the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has proposed a rule, OMB-2026-0034, that threatens the loss of freedom from partisan and ideological control in federal grant-making. Therefore, I am asking you to lodge your comments here:

<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/OMB-2026-0034-0001> before the **July 13th deadline**.

As the chart to the side below shows, the proposed language gives political appointees final say on awards (bypassing peer review, §200.205), allows grants to be terminated at the administration's discretion (§200.340), and places severe barriers on international collaboration (§200.220). Agencies could also deny grants based on organizational affiliations (§200.206).

As someone whose TB research relies on funding from the NSF, and the Departments of State, Education, and Defense, I cannot imagine where my students or I would be without this support. Because most of my research is international, these rules would make compensating foreign collaborators nearly impossible. TB anywhere is TB everywhere. The proposed changes will hinder TB elimination.

As this proposed rule affects so much more than scientific research grants, I encourage you to visit <https://www.usaspending.gov> and explore using terms related to anything that matters to you (e.g., sanitation, nutrition, literacy -- anything) and further filter by geographical location to see just what's at risk and where (hint: everywhere). And in addition to writing your own comments, please share the comments link and informational materials as broadly as you can.

For a deeper dive into the proposed changes, I recommend the writings of former NIH Scientific Program Director, Elizabeth Ginexi:

- <https://elizabethginexi.substack.com/p/summary-of-key-changes-in-ombs-proposed>
- <https://elizabethginexi.substack.com/p/this-new-omb-rule-is-bigger-than>

Stop TB USA will be continuing to add resources—from shareable graphics to information about comment writing town halls—to our website and on social media. Please visit <https://stoptbusa.org/omb-response-resources> for the latest.

- Jonathan Stillo, PhD, Stop TB USA Chair

Key Section Numbers to Cite

§200.205	Political appointees override peer review
§200.340	Grants terminated for political reasons
§200.202	Programs must align with White House priorities
§200.206	Agencies will consider if the grantee or its affiliations are anti-American
§200.450	Public communications restricted
§200.204	Agency heads can exempt grant competitions from public notice
§200.300	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and gender ideology prohibitions
§200.218	Federal agencies cannot fund health or other disparities research
§200.205(d)	Peer Review Is No Longer Binding
§200.220	International collaboration prohibited
§200.1	Definition of “protected” personally identifiable information removed
§200.454	Journal subscriptions categorically banned
§200.461	Publication costs banned
§200.432	Conference attendance requires pre-approval

For the details about the impact of these changes please see:

<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/files/media/documents/2026/2026-chart-omb-uniform-proposed-changes.pdf>
<https://elizabethginexi.substack.com/p/summary-of-key-changes-in-ombs-proposed>
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/OMB-2026-0034-0001>



DC UPDATE

Never a dull moment! The **End TB Now Act (S.4751)** has been reintroduced in the Senate by Senators Todd Young and Jeanne Shaheen! This is the globally-focused policy bill that makes eliminating tuberculosis a top priority for U.S. foreign assistance and global health security. It is bipartisan, and your Senators should co-sponsor it! Call them via the **Capitol Switchboard at 1-202-224-3121**.

Then submit your comment regarding the OMB proposed rule here:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/OMB-2026-0034-0001>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Spotlight: Pragnya Gudipati Shares Her TB Hill Day Experience

Shoutout to Stop TB USA member and Government Relations Work Group Co-Chair Pragnya Gudipati for sharing her experience advocating for TB funding on Capitol Hill! In her latest blog post, Pragnya reflects on meeting with congressional offices, advancing bipartisan support for TB research and prevention, and the power of sustained advocacy beyond a single day on the Hill. We're proud to celebrate her leadership and invite you to [read her inspiring story](#).



TEA Mini-Grant Program Applications Open

The Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance (TEA) is now accepting applications for its 2026–2027 Mini-Grant Program, offering funding to organizations serving communities at increased risk for TB. Funding will support community engagement, education, provider outreach, and quality improvement initiatives aimed at increasing awareness, testing, treatment, and reducing stigma surrounding latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB. Applications are due July 24, 2026

Call for Papers: IJTLD CRD

The Union is inviting researchers and public health professionals to submit manuscripts for upcoming journal issues focused on advancing knowledge and innovation in lung health and TB. Share your research and contribute to the global effort to end TB.

We are excited to announce the launch of the **Stop TB USA TB & Nutrition Work Group (TBN WG)**, a new initiative dedicated to integrating nutrition into the U.S. tuberculosis response through advocacy, research, and cross-sector collaboration.

Upcoming Information Session

Monday, June 23, 2026

12:00 PM ET

Join us to learn about the work group's mission, strategic priorities, planned projects for 2026, publishing opportunities, and ways to get involved. Sign up [here](#) if interested!

Sign On to Improve Access to Pediatric TB Medications

Children in the United States continue to rely on adult TB medications that must be crushed or altered because child-friendly formulations remain unavailable due to regulatory and cost barriers. The NSTC Pediatric Formulary Work Group and TB Alliance are calling on organizations and individuals to sign a letter urging Congress to allow the U.S. to procure quality-assured pediatric TB medications through the Global Drug Facility while an FDA approval pathway is established.

Sign the letter by July 15, 2026, to help ensure children with TB have access to safe, appropriate treatment.

TB RESOURCES & REPORTS

The WHO global tuberculosis report 2025: Drug-resistant TB

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Report highlights the ongoing burden of drug-resistant TB worldwide, emphasizing trends in incidence, gaps in diagnosis and treatment, and geographic distribution.

An Action Guide for Communicators at Public Health Agencies

Visit the PHCC Action Guide, which provides practical, peer-informed strategies, and tools to help public health teams strengthen communication, assess challenges, and improve messaging effectiveness.

2025 Provisional TB Data Report Release

Global TB Report: “Progress is Possible: We Know What Works, Let’s Scale It”

Compendium of data and evidence-related tools for use in tuberculosis planning and programming

TB IN THE NEWS

TB INCIDENCE REPORTS:

Gaston County Public Health Investigating Tuberculosis Exposure

Gaston County Public Health is investigating a potential TB exposure linked to an individual with active TB disease associated with Stuart W. Cramer High School.

The US Army says it has contained a tuberculosis situation at Fort Benning after finding an active case and 47 latent infections

The U.S. Army reports that a tuberculosis outbreak at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, has been contained following public health response efforts, including testing and monitoring of individuals who may have been exposed.

Johns Creek High School put on alert about tuberculosis exposure

The Fulton County Board of Health notified the Johns Creek High School community of a potential TB exposure and is conducting follow-up screening for individuals identified as close contacts.

TB case confirmed in Northern Kentucky. Here's who's at risk, how to stay safe

A tuberculosis case was confirmed at Lloyd Memorial High School in Erlanger, Kentucky, prompting the Northern Kentucky Health Department to identify and notify individuals who may have been exposed.

TB ARTICLES:

3 Essential Questions with Luke Davis, MD, MAS

Yale School of Public Health’s Dr. Luke Davis discusses the current state of global TB and HIV efforts, the role of implementation science in improving care delivery, and the importance of sustaining partnerships to end these public health threats.

First Generic of Priftin Approved by FDA for Tuberculosis Treatment and Prevention

The FDA has approved the first generic version of Priftin (rifapentine), expanding access to a key medication used in combination regimens for treating active TB and preventing latent TB infection. This approval represents a significant step toward enhancing the affordability and accessibility of TB treatment options.

Rollout of 5,000 Near Point-of-Care TB Test Systems in 13 Countries Begins With \$50M in Funding

A \$50 million initiative will support the rollout of 5,000 near point-of-care TB test systems across 13 countries, helping expand access to faster, more accessible tuberculosis diagnosis and strengthening global TB response efforts.

Superior protection against tuberculosis using heterologous mRNA nanoadjuvant vaccines

A new mRNA vaccine (QTAP-R) paired with the existing BCG vaccine showed significantly stronger protection against TB in mice, positioning it as a promising next-generation candidate.

A single letter helped Wayne State student step into public health advocacy

Wayne State University student Lynessa Asplund shares how a course with Dr. Jonathan Stillo, Chair of Stop TB USA, and a media advocacy workshop inspired her to take action on TB. Her advocacy journey highlights the power of education, storytelling, and community engagement in advancing public health.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

TB vaccine from the 1920s shows promise in diabetes trial

The BCG vaccine has shown potential benefits in a phase II clinical trial for people with autoimmune diabetes by helping reduce insulin needs. The findings highlight the broader possibilities of using TB vaccine research to better understand and harness immune responses.

Sorting endosomes play key roles in presentation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis-derived ligands to MAIT cells

A new study reveals how cellular pathways help present Mycobacterium tuberculosis molecules to MAIT cells, a type of immune cell involved in recognizing and responding to infection.

EVENTS, CONFERENCES & COURSES

Conferences:

World Conference on Lung Health, The Union

November 17-20, 2026 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | In person

Courses:

Core Concepts of TB Epidemiology for Public Health Practice

**Management of Child and Adolescent Tuberculosis and Resources for Trainers
(The Union online)**

When TB is the Least of Their Worries: Mini-Course Series

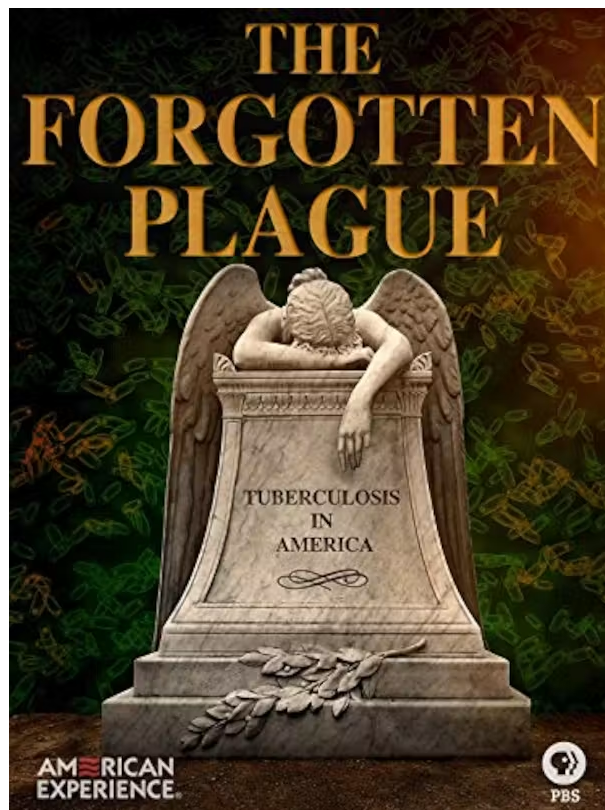
TB 101 for Health Care Workers Training (CDC)

TB BOOKSHELF

“The Forgotten Plague: Tuberculosis in America” *The American Experience*.

Written, Produced and Directed by Chana Gazit

WGBH Educational Foundation



“People still get that?”

A friend's response to my own pTB diagnosis exemplifies how the title of "The Forgotten Plague Tuberculosis" in America is as accurate as it is unfortunate. Drawing heavily from *Living in the Shadow of Death*¹ by Sheila Rothman (who is also interviewed) the documentary focuses on tuberculosis in America from the early 20th century to the advent of streptomycin treatment in the 1940's and 50's. *TB Wire* readers are likely familiar with much of the cultural material, from the internal migration of climate seekers to fashion trends (e.g. relative lengths of skirts and beard), but the documentary features oft-overlooked elements such as the impact of TB on families as they try to prepare for providers' and dependents' deaths—especially when there's a less clear timeline leading to recovery (however temporary) or demise than with many illnesses.

"The Forgotten Plague's" medium as well as its selection and presentation of archival photos enable its greatest achievement: presenting those with TB simultaneously as individuals and part of an easily understood quantity. Books and advocates tend to stick to the poles of individuals — for example, Henry in John Green's *Everything is Tuberculosis*², Handaa Enkh-Amgalan in her memoir *Stigmatized*, or Satine in *Moulin Rouge* – or the million+ annual fatalities and billions likely with LTBI. Between tragedy and statistic lies greater comprehension: and "The Forgotten Plague" shows us patients in significant quantities, but even lying in rows of beds, their looks are distinctive enough to register as individual human beings.

Interweaving personal stories with the science, history, legal and economic aspects of TB, "The Forgotten Plague" also explores the connections between them. Consider the discovery of the M. Tuberculosis bacteria: its importance cannot be overstated, but as Nancy Tomes³ explains:

The sad aspect of this scientific progress is that it made the person with tuberculosis into more of a threat. When you thought consumption ran in families, you couldn't do anything about it. If you got it, you were not to be blamed. Now the individual with tuberculosis was the danger. The more focus there was on person-to-person transmission, the more that stigma, that prejudice, intensified.

In both reality and popular imagination, Western sanatoria occupy the wide space between luxury resort and prison camps and the photo selection demonstrates this. Patients are confined en masse, but New York's Lake Saranac sanatorium is hardly Bellevue sanitarium and Angela Barret (whose sanatorium-set fiction will appear in a future TB Bookshelf) explains that dichotomy on a personal level:

...You may look like a healthy, beautiful 22-year-old woman, you are in fact, vile in some way, contaminated. You know that something awful is happening in your body. And everything around you is sending a signal that you are disgusting in some way; that you have to be separated from healthy people. That seems like the most astonishing psychological burden.

“The Forgotten Plague”, takes us into the labs of the antibiotic revolution where viewers may cringe (and if they don’t, the interviewed make it clear they should) at the photos: no ventilators, no masks, cotton stuffed in tubes with live culture—less than 20 years after those same scientists may have seen *Frankenstein* in theatres—and there’s a certain palpable excitement to the discovery, even with soon-discovered limits of streptomycin and the need for multi-drug cocktails.

The documentary ends with the last American sanatorium’s closure in 1954, but the survivor interviews—much like color photos of the civil rights movement—remind us that is not ancient history, and a final text screen regarding the AIDS boosted spike in infections and the rise of MDR serve to reminder that people we know did and still do get it.

- Reviewed in [TB Wire: May 2024](#)
- Reviewed in [TB Wire: May 2025](#)
- Author of *The Gospel of Germs*, reviewed in [TB Wire: May 2025](#)

- David Moskowitz, Media Work Group Chair

Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!

Invite a friend to [sign up](#) to receive the TB Wire and [be a part](#) of Stop TB USA!

Donate today! <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/stop-tb-usa>

Stop TB USA

www.stoptbusa.org

leadership@stoptbusa.org

PO Box 260288, Atlanta, GA 31126



[Unsubscribe from our emails](#)