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December 12, 2013

The Honorable Gene Green
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Phil Gingrey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Gingrey and Green:

On behalf of the American Thoracic Society (ATS)'s 15,000 specialists in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine, thank you for your efforts to support the development of new therapeutics to treat drug resistant tuberculosis (TB) and other infectious diseases. We are pleased to endorse legislation that you sponsoring, the Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment (ADAPT) Act of 2013 which will speed the development and approval of drugs and biological products for use in limited populations of patients to address increases in bacterial resistance.

As you know, drug resistant TB continues to spread globally, including in the U.S. and current treatments are toxic, lengthy and difficult for patients to tolerate. In order to halt the spread of drug resistant TB, research and development into new TB diagnostics, drugs and prevention interventions must be accelerated, including mechanisms to speed Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, and your legislation will enable this. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure enactment of the Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment (ADAPT) Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Patricia Finn, M.D.
President
American Thoracic Society