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YOUNITE Global Demands Immediate Reversal of Stop-Work Order and Restoration of Global TB Funding

YOUNITE Global, a youth-led network advocating for young people affected by tuberculosis (TB), strongly condemns the reckless stop-work order that has halted U.S. global aid financing and federal grants. This decision is not just a bureaucratic move—it is a direct attack on millions of lives and a blatant betrayal of the commitments the United States made to end TB.

TB remains one of the deadliest infectious diseases, killing 1.6 million people annually. The U.S. has long been a key player in global health, but this sudden and irresponsible funding freeze has already resulted in clinic closures, the dismissal of frontline healthcare workers, and the collapse of critical community-led TB programs. Millions are now left without access to diagnosis, treatment, and life-saving care. This decision directly contradicts the U.S.'s own promises at the 2023 UN High-Level Meeting on TB, where it pledged to support global TB eradication by 2030.

The consequences of this failure are catastrophic:

More deaths and suffering. Patients currently undergoing treatment are being abandoned, and the number of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) cases will surge.

A global health security crisis. TB does not recognize borders. The spread of untreated TB poses a direct threat to the U.S. and the world.

Economic devastation. TB disproportionately impacts marginalized and low-income communities, further straining already fragile healthcare systems.

This is a **shameful** and **morally indefensible** decision that must be reversed immediately. YOUNITE Global demands the U.S. government take urgent action by:

- **Rescinding the stop-work order and immediately reinstating TB funding.**
- **Fulfilling its commitments to global TB eradication and broader health initiatives.**
- **Investing in TB research, vaccine development, and healthcare system strengthening.**
- **Rebuilding trust by reinforcing global partnerships to fight TB.**

Every second of delay costs lives. The U.S. cannot claim to be a leader in global health while turning its back on the world's most vulnerable communities. We call on President Trump and the U.S. government to reverse this disastrous decision **now**—before the damage becomes irreversible. **The world is watching.**

Sincerely,

Aman Shukla (Chair)



YOUNITE Global
(Youth United for Impact in TB Elimination)