

Tuberculosis is greater danger than terrorism

Last month, Russia hosted the G8 Summit, and I understand the discussion centered on terrorism and the Middle East. That's too bad.

People worry about terrorism, but in simple numbers of deaths caused, tuberculosis is a far greater danger, and President Vladimir Putin should know it.

Russia has the 12th highest burden of TB in the world. Some 2 million people die of TB each year. That's about 5,480 deaths each day.

The developed nations at the G8 worry about terrorism, but the far greater threat to us in the United States and around the world is TB. And just like terrorism, we can fight TB over there or over here. I commend both Representatives George Miller and Ellen Tauscher for signing on to the Stop TB Now Act of 2006 — a U.S. plan to fight TB overseas. I wish Rep. Richard Pombo would do the same.

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