

# **Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety & Health Act**

**(SMASH Act)**

**Douglas Carlson**

**Indian River Mosquito Control District**

**Vero Beach, FL**



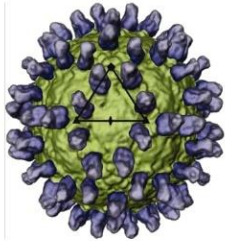
20<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Conference

# Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act (MASH Act)

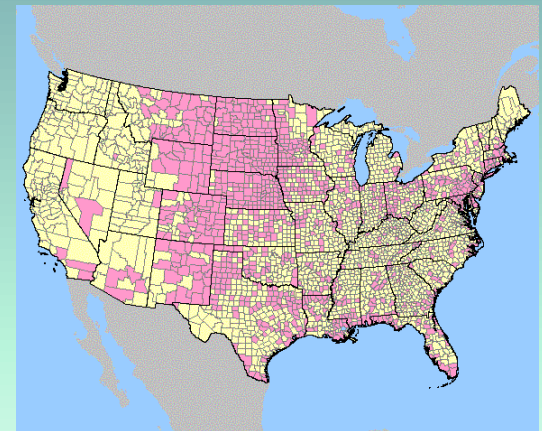
- By the end of 2002, there had been approx. 4300 cases of West Nile virus with 303 deaths
- Stimulated interest in Congress to pass the MASH Act, signed by President Bush in August 2003

**West Nile Virus**

- West Nile virus (WNV) is an **arthropod-borne flavivirus** transmitted to humans and horses by the bite of an infected mosquito. West Nile Virus (WNV) is also belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family *Flaviviridae*.



CVASU



2002

# ***Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act (MASH Act)***

**MASH authorized Secretary of HHS (through CDC) to make grants to states for purpose of:**

- **Coordinating mosquito control programs**
- **Assisting states to issue grants to localities to assess needs and carry out programs**
- **Preference given to states with high incidence of disease**
- **To be funded @ \$100M for 2003, similarly for 2004-07**

***[AUTHORIZED BUT NOT APPROPRIATED]***

## *Arrival of ZIKA*

About 15 years after the introduction of WNV to the U.S., along came Zika, once again bringing widespread attention to a mosquito-transmitted disease with potentially tragic consequences



# **Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act (SMASH Act)**

**Introduced in 2017 as:**

- **Senate Bill 849**
  - **Angus King (I-ME)**
  - **Richard Burr (R-NC)**
  - **Bill Nelson (D-FL)**
  - **Marco Rubio (R-FL)**
  
- **House Bill 1310 - Darren Soto (D-FL)**



# ***SMASH Act***

- **SMASH amends the Public Health Service Act (1944) to provide grants through CDC for mosquito control programs to:**
  - **Combat emerging mosquito-borne diseases**
  - **Improve existing control programs (surveillance and response)**
- **Allocates \$130M per year for FY 2018-2023**



# **SMASH Act elements**



**Key elements of SMASH (MASH has lapsed):**

- **Strengthen response to Zika by reauthorizing and improving mosquito control efforts at the program level**
- **Emphasize the importance of public health preparedness through reauthorizing the epidemiology-laboratory capacity (ELC) grants**
- **Provide for a study by Government Accountability Office to inform Congress how to strengthen preparedness through state and local partnerships**

# ***SMASH Act status***



## ***CURRENT STATUS***

**SENATE:** Introduced on Apr. 5, 2017  
**(849)** Passed on Sept. 6, 2017

**HOUSE:** Introduced on Mar. 2, 2017  
**(1310)** Bill is in first stage of legislative  
process



# ***SMASH Act challenges***

## ***Karen Williams (MWE) analysis***

- **House is more conservative than Senate making support there less likely**
- **Rep. Soto (D-FL) is in minority party and Republican leadership may be hesitant to bring bill to floor**
- **While there likely is no policy issue, bill may not receive much attention now that Zika is not prominently “in the news”**

# MOSQUITO COUNTY - 1827

