

The Honorable xxxxxx
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Appropriations Requests

Dear Congressman/Senator xxxxxx,

I am writing on behalf of the *American Mosquito Control Association* (AMCA), a not-for-profit professional association public health officials, academicians, county trustees/commissioners, and mosquito control professionals dedicated to providing leadership, information, and education leading to the enhancement of health through the suppression of mosquito and other vector transmitted diseases.

Because of the vital work needed to control mosquitos and other vectors to safeguard public health in our nation, we request your consideration of the following programs in the FY 2021 appropriations:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) - For the protection of public health through the suppression of mosquito and other vector transmitted diseases, \$168,000,000? (Current + SMASH + TICK) OR \$196,000,000 (Pres + SMASH + TICK) is requested. A sustainable nationwide capacity for the control of mosquito vectors is critical in our nation. Therefore, additional resources are needed to support existing state, county, district, or municipal mosquito control programs in their operations, discovery of innovative diagnostic tools, identification of new and emerging vectors and diseases, research and development to foster new vector control technologies, and laboratory building to support arbovirus-related programs and activities.

In an effort to maximize the impact on public health to guard against serious illness and disease, the Committee should provide direction to the CDC that funding be directed through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) mechanism as authorized in the 2019 *Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Programs (SMASH Act)* to support state, county, district, and municipal mosquito control programs. In addition, as authorized through the recently enacted *Kay Hagen TICK ACT*, funding is requested toward the creation of a national strategy for vector-borne diseases, enhanced support for Centers of Excellence, and an increased capacity to identify report, prevent, and respond to such public health threats, including mosquito borne disease.

Such funds are encouraged to be directed toward building vector control capacity and mosquito control operations at the local level as well as the development of innovative diagnostic tools, identification of new and emerging vectors and diseases, and research and development to foster new vector control technologies.

Note, the President's FY21 budget requested \$66 million and prioritizes funding to address "the rising threat of tick and mosquito-borne diseases in the United States." To improve CDC's lab capacity, an additional \$10 million was also requested to "support lab technologies, equipment, and training to enhance CDC's ability to respond to outbreaks." In FY20, level funding of \$38,603,000 was provided by Congress with language encouraging CDC to fund activities under the Mosquito Abatement for Safety.

Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Programs (SMASH Act)

For the protection of public health through the suppression of mosquito-borne illness, vital resources are needed to support existing state, county, district, and municipal mosquito control programs in programs for mosquito-borne disease surveillance and control as designated under *the Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Programs (SMASH Act)*.

The SMASH Act (Public Law No: 116-22), enacted in June, 2019, reauthorized Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources to be used to address emerging infectious mosquito-borne diseases and improve existing control programs for the protection of public health. Specifically, the measure expanded and extended authorization for \$100 million in annual grants for mosquito prevention, control, and response programs.

Such resources should also be directed toward the CDC American Mosquito Control Association's Train the Trainers agreement that has proved effective and should be continued, as well as the Regional Centers of Excellence, which should be extended.

The SMASH Act extended authorization in grants for mosquito control programs to prevent and control mosquito-borne diseases by the CDC, to support the operation of control programs, emerging, and infectious mosquito-borne diseases, and to improve existing control programs. **As such, \$100 million in CDC Division of Vector-Borne Diseases funding is requested in support of programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control as designated under the SMASH Act.**

The TICK Act

The Kay Hagen TICK ACT, enacted into law in December 2019 (Public Law No: 116-94) called for the development and implementation of a national strategy and strategic goals to address vector-borne disease, enhanced support for Centers of Excellence for vector-borne diseases and increased capacity to identify report, prevent, and respond to such public health threats. Toward this end, we ask that Congress encourage the recognition of the significant nature of mosquito borne disease, among vector-borne diseases funding capabilities authorized under the TICK Act, including the following:

National Strategy - As directed in statute, in development of a vector borne disease national strategy, consultation shall be undertaken with vector management professionals, public health professionals, and others with expertise in vector-borne diseases and researchers, and we ask that this should include *mosquito control professionals*.

Centers of Excellence - **Funding is requested under the TICK Act of \$10,000,000 in FY21, as authorized to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to institutions of higher education for the establishment or continued support of regional centers of excellence in vector-borne diseases. Such funding should recognize the public health threats of *mosquito borne* vector-borne diseases in providing funding capabilities as authorized under the TICK Act including:**

- * facilitating collaboration between academia and public health organizations for public health surveillance, prevention, and response activities related to vector-borne diseases;
- * training for public health entomologists and other health care professionals, to address vector-borne diseases;
- * conducting research to develop and validate prevention and control tools and methods, including evidence-based and innovative methods to anticipate and respond to disease outbreaks, or preparing for and responding to outbreaks of vector-borne diseases.

Enhanced Capacity - **Funding is requested under the TICK Act of \$20,000,000 as authorized for enhanced capacity to address vector borne diseases, including *mosquito borne disease* through cooperative agreements with health departments of States, political subdivisions of States, and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations in areas at high risk of vector-borne diseases in order to increase capacity to identify report, prevent, and respond to such diseases.**

Thank you for your consideration, as these resources are needed to support existing state, county, district, or municipal vector programs in their operations, discovery of innovative diagnostic tools, and identification of new and emerging vectors and diseases, in an effort to safeguard public health in our nation.