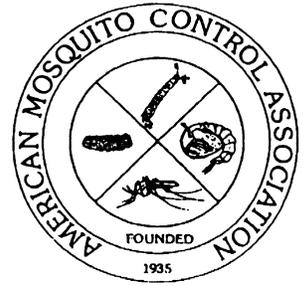




Individuals enhancing the health and quality of life through the suppression of mosquitoes, other vectors and pests of public health importance.



A Partner in the EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

Sept 6, 2017

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To Whom It May Concern,

The membership of the American Mosquito Control Association wishes to express its full support for the provisions set forth in Senator Angus King's (I-ME) bill entitled "Strengthening Mosquito Abatement Safety and Health Act" (SMASH Act). It is needed now more than ever. The trauma of families losing everything to flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey will shortly be made even worse by mosquito-borne diseases likely to strike in the aftermath. The potential for a West Nile, Zika or dengue outbreak in the wake of new breeding habitats in the debris left by receding floodwaters is very real and will require significant resources to effectively prevent and control. Furthermore, disaster relief efforts can be considerably hampered by the enormous increase in mosquito populations brought about by establishment of new sources of standing water.

Both local and national capacity to control mosquito-borne disease largely depends to the extent to which our public health infrastructure is appropriately funded. All too often, resources are only appropriated when an exotic disease such as Zika appears and makes headlines. This is grossly inefficient and causes needless suffering. We should be preventing mosquito-borne disease, not reacting to it on a case-by-case basis. This will entail authorization and appropriation of the funds designated in the SMASH Act so that an infrastructure is in place to reduce mosquito populations before they harm our citizenry.

Indeed, the \$130 million appropriations request pales in comparison to medical and emotional costs attendant to those whose loved ones are afflicted by Zika, West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases that this funding could help prevent. We can and must do better.

The provisions of the "Strengthening Mosquito Abatement Safety Health Act" are long overdue and, if enacted, will provide relief from disease and extreme nuisance for future disaster victims and their rescuers while substantially furthering our nation's core values of protecting public health far into the future. Our citizens deserve no less.

Highest regards,

Joseph M. Conlon
Technical Advisor, American Mosquito Control Association