



## PASSING THE STRENGTHENING MOSQUITO ABATEMENT SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT (SMASH ACT)

**ISSUE:** Once the *Strengthening Mosquito Abatement Safety Health Act (SMASH Act)* is enacted into law, Congress must appropriate funding in support of programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control, as designated within the SMASH Act.

**Background:** Public health agencies must be fully prepared to meet the challenges of lethal mosquito-borne diseases. In recent years, the emergence and spread of the Zika Virus in Central and South America and the Caribbean has reawakened in the United States a recognition of mosquitoes as not just nuisances, but transmitters of serious, debilitating diseases.

The SMASH Act, currently pending before Congress, would reauthorize the Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Program, to provide the necessary mechanisms to confront these public health challenges. Thus, to address our nation's emerging mosquito-borne diseases at the local and regional levels, critical funding must be authorized and appropriated by Congress, as reflected within the SMASH Act. Note: The SMASH Act has been approved by the House of Representatives (H.R. 345) through broader legislation, the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPA), and is awaiting Senate action.

Our national capacity to control mosquito-borne disease depends on the extent to which our public health infrastructure is appropriately funded. Funds for prevention and control programs must be appropriated so that future imported cases of exotic diseases can be contained and eliminated before their establishment and spread. As such, funding is requested to carry out the programs and operations authorized by the SMASH Act.

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### **NEEDED ACTION:**

**Subsequent to authorization and enactment into law of the SMASH Act, vital appropriation funding is needed to ensure adequate and effective resources are available for critical mosquito control efforts to safeguard public health.**

**As such, \$130 million is requested through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, for grants for mosquito control programs, through funding mechanisms as designated in the SMASH Act. Such resources would be used to address emerging, infectious mosquito-borne diseases, and to improve existing control programs for the enhanced protection of public health in our nation.**

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