



**07-10**

## **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

### **Mosquito Control**

#### **Policy**

Building on its work with the Mosquito Control Collaborative to disseminate the recommendations for addressing local needs in developing, maintaining, and funding sustainable mosquito control programs as well as research new ideas that help support the recommendations, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO):

- Supports the need for successful coordinated mosquito management programs at the local level, through the provision of additional funds; and research to create, integrate, and coordinate local mosquito control plans with existing district and state plans.
- Urges Congress to fully fund and maintain funding for the Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (MASH) Act.

NACCHO supports federal, state, and local funding for local health departments and mosquito control agencies to provide technical assistance, education and research to:

- improve their capability to predict and avoid new vector borne diseases,
- address consumers' behavior and practices relating to mosquitoes, and
- support the development of policies that address social injustices which contribute to the disproportionate burden of vector borne disease on vulnerable populations, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems.

NACCHO also will continue to work with partners such as public works, mosquito control districts and other agencies to further enhance the effectiveness of mosquito and vector control activities.

#### **Justification**

Mosquito-borne diseases affect millions of people worldwide each year. In the United States, some species of mosquitoes can transmit diseases such as encephalitis, West Nile virus, dengue fever, and malaria to humans, and a variety of diseases to wildlife and domestic animals. To combat mosquitoes and the public health hazards they present, many states and localities have established mosquito control programs. These programs, which are based on surveillance, can include nonchemical forms of prevention and control as well as ground and aerial application of chemical and biological pesticides<sup>1</sup>.

The Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (MASH) Act directs federal dollars to state and local governments to control their mosquito populations. West Nile virus (WNV), a mosquito transmitted disease, has become an endemic health problem that has spread throughout the United States and will continue to plague citizens on a yearly basis. There is need to provide funding for the MASH Act to enhance the development of integrated mosquito management programs throughout the U.S. and aid in the overall protection of public health. The bill also instructs the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on controlling insects and vermin responsible for spreading diseases like WNV<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> EPA Office of Pesticide Programs. <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/skeeters.htm>. July, 2004.  
<sup>2</sup> 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS (1<sup>st</sup> Session). H.R. 342 Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (MASH) Act. January 27, 2003.

Record of Action

*Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors July 11, 2007*