

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

October 5, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Reid and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), thank you for providing supplemental funding to address the Zika virus and restore FY2016 funds repurposed for Zika from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NACCHO represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments that are on the frontlines of the Zika response.

Supplemental funding to combat the Zika virus is critical to ensuring that agencies such as CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are prepared to respond to the spread of Zika and develop a vaccine. Given the life-altering birth defects Zika can cause and the recurring nature of a vector borne disease, resources through the regular appropriations process will continue to be required.

Local health departments have been engaged in educating the public and health care providers about Zika, conducting prevention activities through mosquito eradication; screening travelers from countries where the outbreak has surfaced, and ensuring pregnant women in local transmission areas have Zika testing available. With new funding for Zika, state and local health departments will be supported by CDC with increased virus readiness and response capacity focused on areas with ongoing Zika transmission; enhanced laboratory, epidemiology and surveillance capacity in at-risk areas and surge capacity to limit potential clusters of Zika virus in the United States. Federal agencies need to disseminate funding for Zika as soon as possible in order to protect the public's health.

Thank you again of your support of measures to prevent the spread of Zika. For further information, please contact Eli Briggs, Senior Government Affairs Director at ebiggs@naccho.org or 202/507-4194.

Sincerely,



LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH
Executive Director

