

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin Chair Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt Chair Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies House Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito Ranking Member Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies House Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chairman Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The Vector-Borne Disease Network (VBDN) is a stakeholder group of nonprofit organizations led by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) that aims to reduce human and animal suffering caused by arthropod disease vectors. Many notorious public health threats such as Lyme disease, Zika virus, malaria, and West Nile virus are transmitted by arthropod vectors like ticks and mosquitoes. We urge you to provide at least \$11.581 billion for CDC in the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bills.

More specific to th '†") V interest in vector-borne diseases, we ask that you provide, within the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease (NCEZID), \$114.603 million in funding for the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD). Included within this ask is sustained funding for Lyme disease, a requ0 65 G()]TJETQ52 3med0000912 0 612 792 reWhBTF1 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 159.5 273.77 Tm0 g205.01

The challenge posed by VBDs only continues to grow with time, with Lyme disease continuing to spread into places it has not previously been detected, a growing burden from alpha-gal syndrome, and emerging diseases like Heartland virus and Bourbon virus being detected in the mid-Atlantic region in addition to the Midwest and South. Fortunately, the CDC runs critical programs to help address these challenges at the regional, state, and local levels.

CDC Regional Centers of Excellence (COE) and Training and Evaluation Centers (TEC) in Vector-Borne Diseases: In 2022, four COEs were reauthorized following a competition. These centers, covering *New England, the Southeast, the Midwest, and the Southwest,* play a unique and critical role in the coordination between academic institutions and state and local health departments to accelerate dissemination of research findings and information into the communities

outbreaks of all kinds, including vector-borne diseases, and we thank you for your support. The VBDN requests \$340 million in FY 2025 #) # Public Health Data Modernization to carry out this important function

In total, the VBDN request for FY 2025 is \$114.603 million for the #) # Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD). Included within this is a request for an increase of \$10.0 million in ELC funding for VectorSurv, as well as \$14 million more for VBD ELC support to fulfill the vision of the *Kay Hagan Tick Act*, for a total of \$87.603 million for the VBD line, and \$27.0 million for Lyme disease. This would help support the collaborative efforts of more than a dozen federal agencies efforts to fulfill the vision laid out in the National Strategy on VBD and help meet the needs of states across the U.S.

agency has the resources it needs to protect Americans from serious threats like VBD. On behalf of our coalition of stakeholders invested in the mission to reduce the ongoing and emerging threats posed by ticks, mosquitoes, and other arthropod vectors, we thank you for your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Mosquito Control Assof15.58 T3\$091 792 00030190\$5(n696.1 Tm0 g0 G)13 792 reW\*nBTQ

VectorED Network Training and Evaluation Center for Vector-borne Diseases