LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026 at a Glance

WHO AND WHAT IS THE AMCA?

The American Mosquito Control Association ('AMCA") is a non-profit scientific and educational professional association. Although most of our members are in the United States, our members and subscribers to our publications work in more than 50 countries. Our mission is to enhance health and quality of life through the suppression of vector-transmitted diseases and the reduction of mosquitoes and other public health pests by providing leadership, information, collaboration, tools, and education. The AMCA membership is composed of students, researchers, professors, regulators, public and industry personnel, mosquito control district managers, staff, commissioners, and their trustees.

The urgency of our mission cannot be overstated. The nation's mosquito control professionals, part of the AMCA, are on the frontlines, protecting humans and wildlife from diseases transmitted by the world's most dangerous animal – the mosquito. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns that without improved mosquito control capability, we risk the increasing emergence and spread of exotic vector-borne diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus.

AMCA supports the following funding measures for FY'27:
Request for Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Bill - $50 million for Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC), of which $10 million is requested for data modernization. This represents a total plus-up of $10 million from the static funding enacted as part of the FY26 Continuing Resolution.

AMCA expresses our appreciation for the strong, ongoing Congressional support for data modernization at the CDC in recent years. Sustained support for data infrastructure will be critical to modernize healthcare in this nation as public health data currently remains siloed from other health care data. As diseases and insects do not respect county, state, or territorial boundaries, a robust data infrastructure will be the only way to meaningfully protect the U.S. against future biological threats. This funding will lead to better detection of emerging outbreaks. The AMCA request within the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease (NCEZID), *at least* $153.603 million in funding 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. In 2019, the Kay Hagan TICK Act authorized an additional $20 million over the FY 2019 level, $10.0 million at that time, and thus would be $30.0 million total for FY 2027. So far,

only about $7 million of that $20 million authorized increase has been appropriated with the FY 2026 level.

VectorSurv enhances capacity for mosquito control activities and expands nationwide surveillance of vector-borne disease. VectorSurv currently supports 31 states and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands for coordinated surveillance, control, and abatement activities which fit within the $100 million authorized increase through the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) provisions in the All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-22). *AMCA requests an additional $10 million through ELC funding to continue and grow support and engagement with VectorSurv.*

AMCA supports the Reauthorization and Appropriations detailed in the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act, the Kay Hagan TICK Act, and the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness (PAPHA) Act.

The nation's vector control professionals need your support for the reauthorization of bills that directly affect our ability to protect the public's health, namely SMASH, PAPHA, and the Kay Hagan Tick Act.

A changing world and increased human travel are expanding the ranges of mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit, such as West Nile virus, chikungunya, dengue, malaria, and Zika virus. The reauthorization of these important bills is imperative for the ability of local districts, state health departments, territories, and tribal communities to identify and combat the continued threat of vector-borne diseases. These bills allow federal monies to supplement existing programs and underserved communities that are already strained for resources. The provisions of these bills support effective communication between local programs, state, and federal agencies.

AMCA calls on Congress to swiftly enact a Farm Bill that provides regulatory relief for pesticide users and maintain state and federal regulatory authority of pesticide use in mosquito control applications.

The draft 2024 Farm Bill reported by the House Committee on Agriculture in the 118th Congress contained several important provisions that reduce regulatory burdens, as well as enhance communication and cooperation between federal, state, and industry stakeholders regarding pesticide regulation, some of which were included in the working draft of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

AMCA asks Congress to swiftly enact a Farm Bill that would provide regulatory relief for mosquito control professionals throughout the country, including language that would reauthorize the IWG on FIFRA/ESA; support an enhanced role for USDA's OPMP in

federal pesticide regulation; prevent localities from regulating pesticides and maintain oversight by each state's lead agency and the U.S. EPA; and reduce regulatory burdens associated with pesticide applications that are duplicative of protections to water quality and aquatic organisms already regulated under FIFRA.

AMCA has strongly supported the "Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act" in each Congress since 2011. We urge Congress to reintroduce and pass of this Bill as part of H.R. 3898 (the PERMIT Act). This legislation would eliminate costly, duplicative, and unnecessary Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements for mosquito control applicators.

NPDES pesticide general permits (PGPs) do not add any environmental benefits over those included on the pesticide product label, but they add significant costs and administrative requirements, which diverts time and money away from local districts' core mission of preventing vector-borne diseases.

The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act restores consistency under the Clean Water Act by recognizing that many routine pesticide applications, such as agricultural runoff, forestry, and fire control, are already exempt from NPDES permitting. It ensures that mosquito control and other public health applications are treated the same way, eliminating a duplicative and unnecessary permitting requirement that currently creates imbalance and complicates efforts to protect communities.

Pesticides approved for use in, over, or near water require additional studies during the registration process to ensure their safety for aquatic use. Pesticide regulations have improved in recent years through ongoing collaboration among federal agencies, leading to enhanced recordkeeping and environmental safeguards. Strengthening the registration process under FIFRA satisfies the goals of protecting U.S. waterways, rendering NPDES permits for aquatic pesticides duplicative and obsolete.

AMCA supports efforts to enhance the role of USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) in a Farm Bill to improve data collection, analysis, and stakeholder input regarding decisions impacting the sale, distribution, and use of pesticides.

The AMCA supports efforts in the farm bill to secure a stronger coordination role for OPMP in all pesticide policy actions, including Endangered Species Act implementation. Understanding OPMP's perspective on these issues is important. The USDA Office of Pest Management Policy was created in 1998 to coordinate USDA policy on pest management and pesticides. OPMP provides interagency coordination with the EPA, state regulators, and industry stakeholders.

To conduct their review of pesticides, the EPA must use the best available data and develop an appropriate methodology that reliably assesses the potential risk to the species. The USDA OPMP can assist by quantifying the benefits of public health pesticides, including the negative impacts of intense mosquito bites and arboviruses on livestock and other animals.

AMCA supports reauthorization of the Kay Hagan Tick Act (H.R. 4348/ S. 2398). This legislation would provide federal support for vector-borne disease surveillance, research, and local response capacity.

The Kay Hagan Tick Reauthorization Act (H.R. 4348**/**S. 2398) is a bipartisan effort to sustain and strengthen the nation's coordinated response to vector-borne diseases by extending existing CDC- and HHS-administered programs through 2030. Rather than creating new programs, the bill preserves a proven federal framework that supports surveillance, research, diagnostics, and response efforts across federal, state, local, and tribal partners. This reauthorization is especially important as vector-borne diseases (particularly tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease) continue to rise in incidence and expand geographically, while new and re-emerging threats such as dengue, West Nile virus, and Oropouche present growing public health challenges.

The legislation directly addresses persistent gaps in surveillance capacity, workforce shortages, and fragmented data systems that limit effective response. Through continued investment in Centers of Excellence, Training and Evaluation Centers, and cooperative agreements with health departments, the Act strengthens the public health workforce, enhances laboratory and surveillance capabilities, and improves coordination across jurisdictions. These programs also support integrated data systems that enable earlier detection of outbreaks, more targeted interventions, and stronger risk communication which are critical components of a modern, responsive vector-borne disease strategy.

For mosquito control districts and public health agencies, reauthorization translates into tangible operational support, including funding for surveillance, diagnostics, staffing, equipment, and public outreach. It also sustains research partnerships and training pipelines that are essential for long-term preparedness. Without reauthorization, these programs risk disruption, potentially undermining recent progress and leaving communities less equipped to manage the growing burden of vector-borne diseases.