

Background: The Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act, included as section 607 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-22) reauthorized Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources to be used to address emerging infectious mosquito-borne disease and improve existing control programs for the protection of public health in our nation. Specifically, the measure expands and extends authorization for \$100 million in annual grants for mosquito prevention, control, and response programs. Funding for the provisions of the SMASH Act at the full authorized level are the American Mosquito Control Association's highest priority.

The provisions of the SMASH Act are necessary to ensure mosquito-borne endemics are addressed appropriately every year. COVID-19 demonstrated how resources are shifted from one public health emergency to another, leaving communities across the country—particularly underserved, rural, and minority communities—vulnerable to long-term threats. Funding public health agencies with resources authorized by the SMASH Act will allow local health officials and staff to meet the challenges of lethal mosquito-borne illnesses.

Discussion: The SMASH Act supports the CDC's "National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans" mission to protect people from illness, suffering, and death due to vector-borne diseases. Once the national strategy is put into action, local public health officials will need resources for data modernization, disease monitoring, public education, and disease prevention. Without support to the local level, our nation will continue to be reactive in responding to emerging vector-borne diseases, when we should be proactive.

- The SMASH Act authorizes \$100 million annually in grants for mosquito control programs to prevent and control mosquito-borne diseases for FY2021 through FY2023, **subject to congressional appropriation.**
- The SMASH Act directed that coordination grants to states and political subdivisions be expanded to address "emerging, infectious mosquito-borne diseases" and to "improve existing control programs." Specifically, in making grants to political subdivisions of states or consortia of political subdivisions of states, for the operation of control programs, grant preference is now given to those with:
 - An emerging infectious mosquito-borne disease that presents a "serious public health threat or a public health emergency due to the incidence or prevalence of a mosquito-borne disease that presents a serious public health threat."

FUNDING/LANGUAGE REQUEST

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Division of Vector-Borne Diseases funding of \$100 million is requested in support of programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne diseases surveillance and control as designated under the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act.