

September 13, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Senator Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi,

We write to express the urgent need for supplemental funding to contain and address the Zika virus in our cities. As the mosquito-borne virus rapidly spreads in the U.S. and its territories, we urge congressional leadership to prioritize passing the Zika funding package that President Obama has requested during this work period.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 16,800 cases of the Zika virus have been reported in the U.S. and its territories. Zika usually causes mild symptoms, such as fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis, lasting for several days to a week. However, this virus is far more dangerous for pregnant women, whose fetuses can develop the birth defect microcephaly if the mother contracts the virus. Thus far, 1595 pregnant women in the U.S. and its territories (624 in US, 971 in territories) have tested positive for Zika, which is associated with debilitating birth defects in the form of brain damage or atrophy. In the past two weeks, the Zika virus has been detected in trapped mosquitoes in the continental US for the first time.

Congress' persistent inaction has forced the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to use more than \$10 million of its funding for cancer and heart disease research for Zika. In total, \$670 million has been diverted from other health priorities to fund Zika research. In addition, the CDC estimates that it will run out of funding to combat Zika at the end of this month, just as mosquito season reaches its peak.

The critical resources that President Obama has requested would help prevent the spread of the virus by allowing local governments to work in cooperation with the CDC and the NIH to enhance mosquito control, conduct tests, and deploy a critical Zika vaccine. We urge Congress to work together to address this pressing health issue immediately upon your return from August recess.

Sincerely,

Mayor Greg Stanton
Phoenix, Arizona

Mayor Philip Levine
Miami Beach, Florida

Mayor Bill de Blasio
New York City, New York

Mayor Bob Buckhorn
Tampa, Florida

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles, California

Mayor Jim Kenney
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mayor Rahm Emanuel
Chicago, Illinois

Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Boston, Massachusetts

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake
Baltimore, Maryland

Mayor Muriel E. Bowser
Washington, D.C.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu
New Orleans, Louisiana

Mayor Edwin M. Lee
San Francisco, California

Mayor Peter Bober
Hollywood, Florida

Mayor Jennifer Roberts
Charlotte, North Carolina

Mayor Sly James
Kansas City, Missouri

Mayor Chris Koos
Normal, Illinois

Mayor Francis Slay
St. Louis, Missouri

Mayor Mario Avery
Fairburn, Georgia

Mayor Mckinley Price
Newport News, Virginia

Mayor Patrick J. Furey
Torrance, California

Mayor Toni Harp
New Haven, Connecticut

Mayor Jacqueline Goodall
Forest Heights, Maryland

Mayor Charles Smith
Woodmere Village, Ohio

Mayor Hattie Edwards
Eutaw, Alabama

Mayor William Johnson
Holly Hill, South Carolina

Mayor John Giles
Mesa, Arizona

Mayor Diane Delaware
Yazoo City, Mississippi

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Mayor Luke Bronin
Hartford, Connecticut

Mayor Donald Villere
Mandeville, Louisiana

Mayor Anthony Lamonte
Tickfaw, Louisiana

Mayor Susie Giles
Hosston, Louisiana

Mayor Paul Champagne
Lockport, Louisiana

Mayor Ken J. Silver, Ed. D.
Southfield, Michigan

Mayor Bill Flaute
Riverside, Ohio

Mayor Kate Stewart
Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayor Debbie Goettel
Richfield, Minnesota

Mayor Michael VanSchoick
Vivian, Louisiana

Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander
Salisbury, North Carolina

Mayor David H. Bradford
Muscle Shoals, Alaska

Mayor Chris Watts
Denton, Texas

Mayor David Baker
Kenmore, Washington

Mayor Stan Koci
Bedford, Ohio

Mayor Jason Ashmore
Sesser, Illinois

Mayor Chris Roberts
Shoreline, Washington

Mayor Lauren Meister
West Hollywood, California

Mayor Jeffrey Slavin
Somerset, Maryland

Mayor Johnny L. DuPree
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Mayor Ken Miyagishima
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy
De Queen, Arkansas

Mayor Derrick Freeman
Port Arthur, Texas

Mayor Nelda Martinez
Corpus Christi, Texas

Mayor Tim A. Scott
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Mayor C.M. Mitchell
Galax, Virginia

Mayor Charles James
Sunset, Louisiana

Mayor Karen Best
Branson, Missouri

Mayor Teddy P. Gros
Fordoche, Louisiana

Mayor Mike Robertson
Bunkie, Louisiana

Mayor Mark Mitchell
Tempe, Arizona

Mayor Shelley Welsch
University City, Missouri

Mayor Denny Doyle
Beaverton, Oregon

Mayor Glenn Hendricks
Sunnyvale, California

Mayor Susan Haynie
Boca Raton, Florida

Mayor Mark Meadows
East Lansing, Michigan

Mayor Sherrie MsMac Jacobs
Ferriday, Louisiana

Mayor Lydia E. Lavelle
Carrboro, North Carolina

Mayor Andy Hafen
Henderson, Nevada

Mayor Rusty Bailey
Riverside, California

Mayor Vivian Covington
University Park, Illinois

Mayor Lloyd Glascock
Albany, Louisiana

Mayor Chris Coleman
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Mayor Nancy Lyons
Diamond Bar, California

Mayor Irma Thompson Gordon
Kentwood, Louisiana

Mayor Bill Young
Walterboro, South Carolina

Mayor Betsy Hodges
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mayor Art Brooke
Ward, Arkansas

Mayor Smith Joseph
North Miami, Florida