AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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'26:

Request for Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Bill - $780,772,000 for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Account ($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 enacted FY25 omnibus.

The AMCA supports the CDC's goal of data modernization through a comprehensive nationwide surveillance database that tracks and predicts vector-borne disease outbreaks. VectorSurv is an internet-based program currently used by 27 states and territories to track mosquitoes, diseases, and pesticide applications. The expansion and utilization of VectorSurv will require no less than $10 million in ELC funds that will be used to coordinate with states, mosquito control districts, universities, and other federal partners. This program will enhance our capacity to expand nationwide surveillance of vector-borne diseases as authorized through SMASH Act provisions, included as section 607 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-22).

AMCA supports the Reauthorization and Appropriations detailed in the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) 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 climate 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 supports the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for public health and safety programs.

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), better known as drones, provide numerous efficiencies, advantages, and safety over ground or manned aerial applications. UAS technology is helping public agencies develop next-generation tools to utilize limited resources and provide continued public health protection.

AMCA is concerned that bills introduced in this legislative session are too restrictive in limiting the use of UAS for public health and vector control purposes. AMCA requests that any legislation concerning this subject matter recognize the legitimate use of UAS by vector control. Specifically, H.R. 2864 should be amended to allow mosquito control agencies reasonable accommodations to continue using drones produced by any manufacturer approved by the FAA to monitor and control mosquitoes.

AMCA supports pesticide preemption in the 2025 Farm Bill to maintain state and federal regulation of pesticide use in mosquito control applications.

Pesticide preemption means that only a designated state lead agency or the U.S. EPA can regulate the sale and use of pesticides, preempting localities and municipalities from banning certain pesticides or establishing a unique set of regulations for pesticide applications. Affording state agencies with pesticide preemption authority provides a uniform, science-based, predictable regulatory environment that augments federal regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Currently, 44 states have preemption laws. States that do not have pesticide preemption laws may allow local governments to restrict pesticide use. Misinformation, lack of scientific expertise, and public pressure may cause local governments to adopt policies that directly and unjustifiably contradict EPA's scientific findings on pesticide safety. Mosquito-borne disease outbreaks can occur unexpectedly and require an immediate and aggressive response to prevent their spread. The lack of preemption laws restricts our ability to effectively respond to vector-borne disease emergencies.

The American Mosquito Control Association strongly supports the "Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2023" (HR 5089) and urges quick consideration in Congress. This legislation will eliminate costly, duplicative, and unnecessary Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

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.

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 the use of Integrated Mosquito Management on or near cannabis, hemp, and organic farms.

The growth of organic farming over the years, along with the recent expansion of cannabis and hemp production across the United States, has presented a new challenge to vector control districts. Because very few pesticides are registered to control mosquitoes on cannabis, hemp, and organic farms, mosquito control programs must avoid the plants, leaving large gaps in treatment areas and making it difficult to control outbreaks of diseases effectively.

AMCA urges the EPA to recognize that Integrated Mosquito Management is needed in and around cannabis, hemp, and organic farms. To facilitate this urgent need, we must fund the development of more organic pesticides labeled for mosquito control. Simultaneously, research must be conducted to develop scientific-based tolerances for cannabis and hemp crops to add these plants to mosquito control labels.

AMCA supports efforts to enhance the role of USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) in the 2025 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.