

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 - \$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 FY25 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 is \$114.603 million for the CDC's 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.

VectorSurv enhances capacity for mosquito control activities and expands nationwide surveillance of vector-borne disease. VectorSurv currently supports 27 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 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 the previous 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, AMCA requests that any legislation prohibiting access to drones manufactured by specific companies provide reasonable accommodation for those already purchased and utilized for public health and safety, programs, including mosquito control and surveillance.



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. This legislation would eliminate costly, duplicative, and unnecessary Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements for pesticide 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.

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 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 calls for the reintroduction and enactment of legislation similar to H.R. 725, introduced in the 118th Congress. This legislation would have defined “Special Districts” in federal law for the purposes of funding eligibility.

Despite the significance of Special Districts in many local communities, “special district” is not formally defined in federal statute or considered a standard unit of government that is eligible to update or certify population and household statistics. This situation creates higher barriers to access direct or pass-through federal programs intended to supplement local governments’ critical infrastructure and other essential services.

This bill would provide a solution to a complex issue facing the nation’s 35,000 special districts, allowing them to be recognized as local governments; to be placed on a more level playing field with fellow units of local government, to access federally sourced funding, and to set a cornerstone for special districts’ future ability to certify household Census data with federal agencies. It would also require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance within six months to federal agencies that clarifies and reinforces that special districts are local governments. The guidance would be implemented across federal agencies over the course of a year with a report to Congress on the policy within two years of enactment.