## February 2, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby Vice Chairman Senate Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger Ranking Member House Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger and Vice Chairman Shelby,

Thank you for your leadership in championing support for public health. On behalf of the Vector-Borne Disease Network, we the undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for efforts related to vector-borne diseases (VBD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and urge you to complete the fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations process. As part of this request, we ask you to include at least the House-passed spending level of \$10.5 billion for the CDC in any final FY 2022 Labor,

The CDC Regional Centers of Excellence (COE) in Vector-Borne Diseases were created with emergency Congressional funding following the Zika outbreak. These centers play a novel and critical role in the coordination between academic institutions and state and local departments of health to ensure research findings and information are getting out into the community more rapidly, support surveillance efforts, and promote outreach and education. Since their creation in 2017, the five COEs around the U.S. have produced more than 340 peer-reviewed publications, trained more than 600 students, and supported more than 8000 professionals trained in practical vector management techniques.

The COE program was reauthorized through the in 2019, for which the VBDN is very grateful, and the \$15 million in the House-passed FY 2022 appropriations would ensure the continuation of at least five COEs across the country. As part of this, we encourage you to support the \$15 million increase proposed in the House for the CDC incidence of vector-borne disease and to sustain the Regional Centers of Excellence program, including State-level

, and it is crucial that the

agency has the resources it needs to protect Americans from serious threats like VBD. On behalf of our coalition of stakeholders invested in the mission to reduce the ongoing as well as emerging threats posed by ticks, mosquitoes, and other arthropod vectors, we thank you for your commitment to this critical issue.

## Sncerely,

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Mosquito Control Association
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
Anastasia Mosquito Control District
Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in NJ
CDC Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Delta Mosquito & Vector Control District
Entomological Society of America
Georgia Mosquito Control Association
The Infectious Disease Institute at The Ohio State University
Lee County Mosquito Control District
Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-

Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit
Society for Vector Ecology
Tulsa Health Department
The University of Georgia, Cooperative Extension Service
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Nebraska
University of Rhode Island TickEncounter Resource Center
Valent Biosciences

Western Gulf Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases