

June 12, 2019

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert P. Casey Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510



Dear Senator Burr and Co-Sponsors of S.1379,

On behalf of the Vector-borne Disease Network (VBDN) and other organizations listed below, we would like to thank you for supporting and sponsoring S.1379, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (PAHPAI). This legislation, once enacted, will provide an important step forward in recognizing the public health threat posed by ticks, mosquitoes, and other arthropod disease vectors.

A particular priority to the VBDN is Section 607, Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health. According to the CDC, reported human disease cases in the U.S. resulting from bites from arthropods—primarily ticks and mosquitoes—tripled between 2004 and 2016. Meanwhile, nine new germs spread by ticks and mosquitoes were discovered or introduced in that same timeframe. Providing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with the needed authorities for preparing the healthcare and public health systems of our nation to respond to all kinds of medical emergencies, including outbreaks of vector-borne disease, is essential. Ensuring the federal funding agencies have the authority and resources necessary to respond is critical to public health emergencies is central to our nation's health security, and PAHPAI will help do that.

The VBDN is a stakeholder group of organizations led by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) that aims to reduce human and animal suffering caused by arthropod disease vectors. On behalf of the undersigned, we thank you for your commitment to this critical issue and we remain ready to assist in order to see this legislation enacted into law as soon as possible. We hope you will not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance with this or any other future legislation related to these issues. On behalf of this coalition of stakeholders invested in the mission to reduce the public-health and economic risks posed by ticks and mosquitoes, we thank you for your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

American Mosquito Control Association
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
Entomological Society of America
National Pest Management Association
Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association
Southeastern Regional Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases
TickEncounter Resource Center (The University of Rhode Island)
U.S. Biologic, Inc.
Western Gulf Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Diseases