

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 2, 2016

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia, 30329-4027

Dear Director Frieden:

We write to urge you to reconsider the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) current allocation formula for Zika-specific funds being distributed amongst U.S. states and territories. As you know, today the CDC announced that the State of Florida will receive \$720,000 in new funding for detecting and monitoring microcephaly and other adverse birth outcomes as a result of Zika virus infection out of a total of \$16 million that is being divided between 40 states and territories. **This amounts to a paltry 4.5% of funding made available, despite the fact that almost half of all confirmed non-travel cases of the disease in the continental United States have now been linked to mosquito transmission in Florida.**

Yesterday, the State of Florida's Department of Health (FDOH) announced that the total number of Zika virus cases linked to mosquito transmission had increased to 14. This is almost half of all confirmed non-travel cases in the continental U.S., including 15 cases likely via sexual transmission, and one case via laboratory exposure. The new mosquito-related cases are currently confined to a single neighborhood in Miami-Dade County, but that serves neither as comfort to the residents of Florida, nor as a limitation to the continued transmission of the disease by mosquitoes throughout other neighborhoods across the state.

We appreciate the efforts that your agency has taken to closely coordinate with state officials, including the provision of essential emergency Zika virus antibody test kits and for the more than \$8 million dollars in Zika-specific funding the CDC has already distributed to Florida. **However, because of the potential for explosive spread of the virus via mosquito transmission through heavily-populated regions of the state, we urge you, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, to reconsider the current allocation formula for Zika-specific funds.** If funds are truly allocated based on the risk of Zika virus transmission and population need, the State of Florida must receive a far greater share of available funds given the concerning developments linking new cases of the virus to local mosquitoes in Miami-Dade County. Augmented CDC funding provided to FDOH and county health and emergency preparedness departments is critical to effectively dealing with this emerging public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress (FL-27)

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress (FL-24)

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress (FL-26)

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress (FL-25)

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress (FL-23)

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress (FL-1)

Gwen Graham
Member of Congress (FL-2)

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress (FL-3)

Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress (FL-4)

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress (FL-5)

Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress (FL-6)

John L. Mica
Member of Congress (FL-7)

Bill Posey
Member of Congress (FL-8)

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress (FL-9)

Rich Nugent
Member of Congress (FL-11)

Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress (FL-12)

David Jolly
Member of Congress (FL-13)

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress (FL-14)

Dennis Ross
Member of Congress (FL-15)

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress (FL-16)

Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress (FL-17)

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress (FL-18)

Curt Clawson
Member of Congress (FL-19)

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress (FL-20)

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress (FL-21)

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress (FL-22)

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress (FL-10)