



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Theresa Spinner

Director, Media and Public Relations

Direct: 202-783-5551

tspinner@naccho.org

The National Association of County and City Health Officials Applauds the Congress for Providing Additional Zika Funding

Statement by LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Executive Director

Washington, DC, September 29, 2016 — “The National Association of County and City Health Officials representing nearly 3,000 local health departments across the nation gratefully acknowledges Congress’ bipartisan effort to pass H.R. 5325, legislation providing funding for federal state, tribal and local agencies to protect the public from the Zika virus. The passage of this bill will enable local health departments to better protect pregnant women and their families from the devastating consequences of the Zika virus. The additional funds it provides are critical to our members because it is local health departments who are delegated the authority and responsibility to respond to the Zika emergency in places like Harris County, TX; Miami-Dade County, FL; and New York City all of which have hundreds of travel-acquired cases.

Because half of the local health departments across our nation depend solely on federal funding for emergency preparedness, the passage of this bill is especially welcome. Local health departments will be able to increase their efforts to protect vulnerable mothers and their babies while continuing to do their day-to-day job of protecting the public health. We thank Congress for their efforts to address the Zika emergency and ask them to consider creating a standing emergency preparedness fund that could be tapped whenever the next public health crisis strikes. This would benefit us all.”

###

ABOUT NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the national nonprofit association representing the approximately 2,800 local health departments (LHDs) in the United States, including city, county, metro, district, and tribal agencies. NACCHO's vision is health, equity, and security for all people in their communities through public health policies and services. NACCHO's mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.