

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

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Conference Report Summary: Funding for Zika Prevention and Response

Legislation provides \$1.1 billion for domestic and international efforts, contains strong oversight and spending controls, \$750 million is offset

The bill provides a total of \$1.1 billion to federal agencies to fight the Zika virus and prevent it from spreading. This funding will be available immediately upon enactment, for both fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The legislation contains \$750 million in offsets to save taxpayer dollars. Unlike the Administration's request that allowed overly broad authority for federal agencies to use Zika dollars in virtually any area of government without accountability, this legislation places tight controls and oversight on spending to ensure that every dollar is being used appropriately.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – The bill contains a total of \$476 million for the CDC. These funds are primarily targeted to mosquito control efforts, Zika response and readiness in states and territories with heavy mosquito populations, enhanced laboratory activities, continued disease surveillance, international response, and public education on how to protect against and prevent the spread of the disease. These funds can also be used for emergency preparedness grants to state, local, and territorial health departments that may have experienced reductions due to the redirection of their existing dollars to fight Zika.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – The legislation provides \$230 million for the NIH. These funds will support vaccine research and the rapid advanced development and commercialization of new vaccines and diagnostic tests for Zika virus. This includes resources for the NIH to develop both a vaccine for Zika virus and the Chikungunya virus, which are both spread by the “Aedes” species of mosquito.

Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) – The bill includes \$85 million for BARDA for fiscal year 2016. These funds will provide for research and development activities related to Zika, including the deployment of new rapid diagnostic tests. In addition, this funding will support emerging public health needs within states and local communities, should mosquito populations and the disease spread to additional areas.

Targeted funding to help areas with local transmission of Zika – The bill includes \$40 million for community health centers, \$6 million for the National Health Service Corps, and \$95 million via the Social Services Block Grant to be used in U.S. territories and other areas that are experiencing the highest rates of Zika transmission. Funds will support health care, including pediatric subspecialty care, for mothers, children and others experiencing complications from Zika.

State Department/ United States Agency for International Development (USAID)– The bill provides \$175 million for programs through the State Department and USAID to fight Zika in fiscal year 2016.

This includes \$145.5 million for **Global Health** programs. As insects know no borders, this funding will target international mosquito control efforts (“vector control”) to stop the virus at its source. In addition, these resources will support diagnostic tests to detect the virus and vaccines to prevent further spread of the disease.

Also included is funding for Zika-related activities of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to fight the disease before it spreads further into the U.S.

In addition, \$29.5 million is included for **Operations** of the State Department and USAID. These resources will cover operating costs and staff to manage and oversee Zika-related programs, coordination with foreign governments to provide public information on how to protect against and prevent the spread of the disease, the medical evacuations of U.S. Government employees if necessary, and resources for at-risk U.S. citizens in Zika-affected countries.

Mosquito Control – Language is included in the legislation to allow individuals or entities to use certain pesticides for “vector control” of mosquitos that spread the Zika virus. Upon enactment, the EPA and states shall not require a separate Clean Water Act permit for pesticide application for a period of 180 days. The bill requires that the pesticide be approved and applied in compliance with all requirements under the “Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act”, it must control mosquitos, and it must be for the prevention or control of the Zika virus.

Offsets – The legislation contains \$750 million in offsets, approximately the House-passed level. These offsets include \$107 million from leftover, unobligated funding from the 2014 Ebola outbreak, \$100 million in unused administrative funding within HHS, and \$543 million in unspent ObamaCare funding that was intended for territories to set up health care exchanges.

Oversight – The bill includes strong oversight measures to ensure these funds are used to fight the Zika virus and vector-borne diseases, and not for other purposes.

The Government Accountability Office and the Inspectors General of HHS and USAID receive \$2 million total to maintain strict oversight and to report on the use of the funding provided. In addition, the legislation requires that federal agencies submit spending plans, and that they provide Congress with spending notifications. The White House request contained none of these oversight conditions.

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