



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Congress' Failure to Pass a Zika Emergency Spending Bill Places the Public Health at Risk

*The National Association of County and City Health Officials Dismayed by
Congress' Inability to Act*

Washington, DC, July 14, 2016—Congress is leaving for the summer without approving funding to combat the threat the Zika virus poses to the public's health, especially to pregnant women and their babies. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) representing the 2,800 local health departments working on the front lines to protect communities from emergencies like Zika is disappointed by our federal leaders' inability to put health and safety above politics.

Local health officials believe that emerging infectious disease threats like Zika require ongoing vigilance, but the particular risks from this virus require immediate, additional investments. With emergency funding for Zika, state and local health departments would be supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with increased virus readiness and response capacity focused on areas with ongoing Zika transmission; enhanced laboratory, epidemiology and surveillance capacity in at-risk areas and surge capacity to limit potential clusters of Zika virus in the United States.

“By not addressing the threat now, we risk squandering our nation's opportunity to prevent the Zika virus from gaining a foothold in the United States this summer. Local health departments are rightfully concerned because they are on the front lines of responding to this crisis. Resources are still desperately needed to launch prevention

efforts and to respond to any local transmission of Zika. On behalf of families across the nation, we implore federal leaders to find a solution to enable local health departments to do what they are trained to do and protect the public's health." said LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, NACCHO's executive director.

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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, metropolitan, 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.