



June 2, 2026

Re: Support for H.R. 4348 – Reauthorization of the Kay Hagan Tick Act

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Scalise, Majority Whip Emmer, and Conference Chair McClain,

On behalf of the Vector-Borne Disease Network (VBDN), the 32 undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for H.R. 4348, legislation to reauthorize the *Kay Hagan Tick Act*. We commend the leadership of Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie, Health Subcommittee Chairman Morgan Griffith, and Representatives Chris Smith and Lloyd Doggett for advancing this bipartisan effort to address the growing threat of vector-borne diseases in the United States, and were delighted to see it pass out of committee by a unanimous 48-0 vote on May 21. We write today to urge you to bring this to the floor for a vote prior to the July recess before the cases of vector-borne disease begin to hit their summer peaks.

The VBDN is a coalition of non-profit organizations, scientific societies, trade associations, state departments of health, vector control groups, and educational institutions that advocates for vector-borne disease research and management funding, connects the community of vector professionals, and envisions a world where human suffering from arthropod disease vectors is reduced. Vector-borne diseases, particularly those transmitted by ticks and mosquitos, represent a rapidly expanding burden on the nation's public health system. Incidence rates of diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and others have increased significantly over the past two decades, driven by factors including climate variability, land-use changes, and shifting wildlife host and vector distribution ranges. These trends underscore the urgent need for a coordinated, science-based national response.

The *Kay Hagan Tick Act* led to the development of a framework for strengthening federal coordination, enhancing surveillance and management through Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity funding for states, and supporting research, training, and coordination between public health partners and academic research institutions through the Centers for Disease Control regional Centers of Excellence on Vector-Borne. Reauthorization of this legislation will ensure continued progress in several critical areas, including improving diagnostic tools, expanding public health infrastructure, advancing integrated vector management strategies, and fostering collaboration across federal, state, and local agencies.

The VBDN advocates for effective control of vector-borne diseases through sustained investment in the science of vectors themselves including their ecology, behavior, and interactions with pathogens and hosts. Strengthening research and surveillance capacity enables earlier detection of emerging threats, more precise risk assessments, and more effective, targeted interventions. These efforts ultimately reduce healthcare costs, improve patient outcomes, and enhance community resilience. We respectfully urge the House leadership to bring H.R. 4348 to the floor,

ensuring implementation of its provisions to reinforce our nation's ability to respond proactively to the growing challenges posed by vector-borne diseases and safeguard public health.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to improving the health of all Americans. The VBDN stands ready to serve as a resource as you consider this important legislation. If you have any specific questions, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Erin Cadwalader, the Director of Strategic Leadership and Policy with the Entomological Society of America (ESA) who serves as the point of contact for the VBDN, at ecadwalader@entsoc.org or 240-696-3746.

Sincerely,

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Mosquito Control Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Associated Executives of Mosquito Control in New Jersey
Center for Lyme Action
Colorado State University
Colorado Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Association
Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Entomological Society of America
Florida Mosquito Control Association
Gulf Shores VECTOR Program
Hudson Regional Health Commission
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Environmental Health Association
National Pest Management Association
New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission
North Carolina Mosquito and Vector Control Association
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence/regional training and education Center
Northeastern Mosquito Control Association
Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association
Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
Rentokil Terminix
Rockies and High Plains Vector Borne Disease Training and Evaluation Centers
Society for Vector Ecology
Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
VectorED Network, Vector-borne Disease Training and Evaluation Center
New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC)

CC: Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, Rep. Katherine Clark, Rep. Pete Aguilar
Rep. Brett Guthrie, Rep. Morgan Griffith, Rep. Chris Smith, Rep. Lloyd Doggett