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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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September 16, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell:

Despite the unacceptable delay in passing a Zika supplemental appropriations bill, I am encouraged by the recent progress that has been made in working towards bipartisan agreement on finally securing additional, essential funding to successfully combat this epidemic. **I am writing to request that any Zika supplemental appropriations package contain language that orders the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to fully reimburse State and local governments whose jurisdictions were impacted by domestic CDC Zika travel warnings for the costs incurred in emergency Zika response efforts, including for public education campaigns, critical health and surveillance infrastructure preparation, and mosquito abatement.**

As you know, Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and CDC officials confirmed the first locally-acquired mosquito-borne cases of Zika virus in the continental United States in the Wynwood neighborhood of Miami on July 29<sup>th</sup> and in a section of Miami Beach on August 18<sup>th</sup>. My constituents, the residents and taxpayers of Miami-Dade County, and my home state of Florida as a whole, have been disproportionately impacted by the Zika epidemic and the federal government's limited response. As a result, the State of Florida has diverted \$36.2 million to Zika response from other purposes, and Miami-Dade County now expects to spend \$8 million on mosquito abatement this year – more than four times the amount programmed in the County's budget. Given the nature of this international public health emergency, this is an exceptionally large burden for our community to shoulder alone, and so far, the CDC has limited reimbursement of previously incurred costs to only 20% of any new funds disbursed.

Once again, **it is critical that State and local governments whose jurisdictions were impacted by domestic CDC Zika travel warnings are reimbursed in full by the CDC for the costs incurred in emergency Zika response efforts.** I request that you strongly consider including language to that effect in any Zika supplemental appropriations package currently being negotiated.

Sincerely,

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress