



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**  
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, September 29, 2016**  
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**STATEMENTS FROM DEPUTY MAYOR DR. PALACIO AND  
HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. BASSETT ON CONGRESSIONAL  
PASSAGE OF ZIKA FUNDING PACKAGE**

**Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Dr. Herminia Palacio**

“As the mosquito season in New York City winds down, Congress yesterday passed a \$1.1B Zika funding package that would give much needed aid to cities and states affected by this virus. Lack of initiative on Congress’ part did not stop the de Blasio administration from investing \$21M in Zika fighting infrastructure and preparedness. I want to thank the New York Congressional Delegation for its concerted efforts to secure funding. I am thankful that Congress came to its senses and that this global city, and others across the nation, will be able to mount a better defense to this public health crisis.”

**Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett**

“In New York City, there are almost 600 travel-associated cases of Zika and 69 pregnant women who have tested positive for the virus. Thanks to the Mayor’s funding, we have been able to test more than 7,000 people, control the mosquito population, and raise awareness about the virus. None of this would have been possible if we waited for Congress. I’m glad our federal lawmakers finally recognized that this is a public health crisis worthy of funding, but I urge them to fully restore the Public Health Emergency Fund. We can’t continue to have public health get caught up in partisan politics.”

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