



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

August 16, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Leader:

As the Mayor of a global city that has seen its residents impacted by the international Zika crisis, I write to urge you to pass a clean Zika bill that will restore public health emergency program funding and enable New York City to address this outbreak and protect the health and wellbeing of all our residents.

The threat of Zika is here, and we need Federal funding to control and contain the spread of this disease. Forty-nine pregnant women have tested positive for Zika in New York City, and we've had one child born here with microcephaly due to the virus. Mosquito-borne transmission is already happening in Florida and there remains the risk of sexual transmission. In the absence of support from the Federal government and in spite of recent budget cuts, New York City, through our Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Public Health Lab, has launched a three-year, \$21 million plan. This plan is helping us to monitor and control the population of mosquitos in our city, improve testing of mosquitoes and humans, increase our ability to detect the presence of the disease, and educate the public about Zika and how to protect themselves. We are proud of our response and quick action to keep our residents safe, but it is essential that our leaders in Washington come together to provide much-needed funds to support emergency preparedness efforts and research and vaccine development initiatives.

Though local transmission has not yet taken place in the five boroughs, without Federal funding to keep the spread of the virus contained and to support a longer-term response plan, the number of travel-related cases in New York City is sure to rise. Countless New Yorkers have close ties to Zika-affected areas, and many of these jurisdictions do not have the resources to keep the number of cases down and limit the spread of the disease.

I call on Congress to support the \$1.9 billion emergency funding package that will combat this crisis and keep millions of Americans safe. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

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