

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 30, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to urge you to support the highest possible funding for research on the treatment of Lyme disease, a complex and sometimes chronic disease that is caused by an infection from a tick bite, in the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Lyme disease is a growing threat. Annually, there are approximately 476,000 cases of Lyme disease reported across the United States. Federal funding for research and treatments remains exceptionally low. There remains a lack of working diagnostics, sustainable therapies, and still no cure for chronic Lyme. Federal action is necessary to combat ticks, increase awareness to protect families, and boost investment in research and development for Lyme disease treatments.

We ask you to join us supporting funding for Lyme disease programs at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the following levels:

1. **Fully fund the Kay Hagan Tick Act at \$30 million annually.**
 1. \$10 million for the CDC to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to institutions of higher education for the establishment or continued support of regional centers of excellence in vector-borne diseases.
 2. \$20 million for the CDC for purposes of entering into cooperative agreements with health departments of States, political subdivisions of States, and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations in areas at high risk of Lyme and other vector-borne diseases in order to increase capacity to identify, report, prevent, and respond to such diseases and related outbreaks.
2. **Fund HHS LymeX Innovation Accelerator implementation.**

1. \$5 million to HHS to accelerate Lyme Innovation progress and strategically advance tickborne-disease solutions in direct collaboration with Lyme patients, patient advocates, and stakeholders across academia, nonprofits, industry, and government.
3. **Fund Lyme & tickborne disease prevention programs.**
 1. \$30 million for the CDC to develop safer and more effective tick repellents, fund innovative Lyme diagnostics research, and bolster critical education and awareness programs for Lyme and tickborne disease.
4. **Fund National Institute of Health (NIH), through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), research on Lyme and tickborne disease.**
 1. \$135 million for the NIH NIAID to help develop reliable diagnostics and therapies to address the increasing U.S. health concern of Lyme disease.
5. **Fund Defense Peer-reviewed Tickborne disease research through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP).**
 1. \$9 million for the Tick-Borne Disease Research Program to support innovative research that addresses the gaps in tick-borne disease research.

Our goal is to help people protect themselves from ticks and the devastating impacts of Lyme disease. We appreciate your consideration of our request to support funding for research on the treatment of Lyme disease. Thank you.

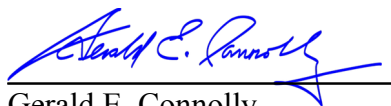
Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



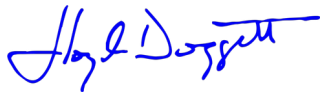
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



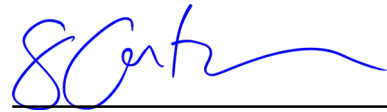
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



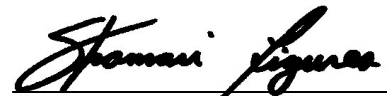
Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



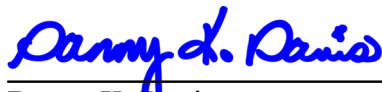
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



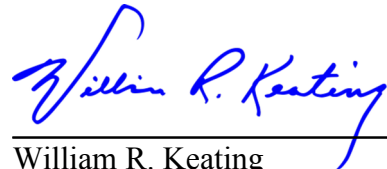
Danny K. Davis
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Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
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William R. Keating
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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James P. McGovern
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Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



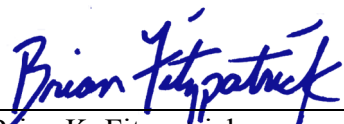
Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



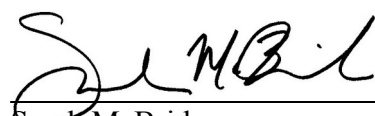
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
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Sarah McBride
Member of Congress