

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5390
(530) 622-3645 Fax

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June 14, 2016

The Honorable Tom McClintock, Congressman
California 4th District
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McClintock,

As supervisors of one of the counties you represent, we encourage you to support the President's proposed emergency funding plan for Zika research and response, which protects Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funds. Accepting the alternative plan where PHEP funding would be redirected to cover these costs would adversely affect the County of El Dorado.

Counties across the United States, including El Dorado, are affected by Zika, emphasizing the importance of funding research and response efforts. Our Public Health staff stays up-to-date on response protocols, performs assessments, and arranges for testing of residents who may have been infected by Zika virus during travel to countries where it is present. Funding Zika research and response efforts at the national level is important because it may help prevent vulnerable people, particularly pregnant women, from developing Zika infections in the long run.

However, the default proposal, in which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would redirect emergency preparedness money to fund the Zika efforts, would harm El Dorado County. It has been estimated that El Dorado County would lose approximately \$22,000 (10%) from its PHEP funding for Fiscal Year 2016-17. The money would be used for Zika vaccine development and for surveillance in geographic areas unlikely to include El Dorado County. That would either result in reduced staffing or the need to back-fill with Public Health Realignment funds that would reduce other public-health activities.

In summary, the default proposal for funding Zika activities would harm El Dorado County. We urge you to support the President's requested emergency funding proposal for Zika virus instead.

Sincerely,

Ron Mikulaco, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado