



May 19, 2016  
For Immediate Release

## **Statement on H.R. 5243 – Zika Response Appropriations Act**

"While I appreciate Congress finally taking action to address the Zika virus, the funding provided in H.R. 5243 is woefully inadequate to support the response public health experts say is needed. We lost 20 Dallas County residents to the West Nile Virus Epidemic of 2012. Furthermore, of the 398 Dallas County cases of infection reported in that outbreak; 174 suffered serious neurological injury. Life threatening mosquito borne illness outbreaks are not hypothetical scenarios for political debate in Texas; they are a very real threat requiring a fully funded aggressive approach. "

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