

Appropriations Report Language for CDC and NIH

House Report Language for FY 2020

<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/116th-congress/house-report/62/1>

CDC

Lyme Disease.--The Committee includes an increase of \$1,000,000 to intensify CDC's efforts to develop improved diagnostics, and bolster critical prevention and surveillance networks

NIH/NIAID

*Lyme Disease and Other Tick-Borne Diseases.--The Committee encourages NIAID to intensify research and development on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including research that will increase understanding of the full range of processes that cause Lyme disease infection. This should include research on the physiology of *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Borrelia mayonii*, including the mechanisms of possible persistent infection, potential treatment protocols for extended or long-term symptoms attributed to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, and development of more sensitive and accurate diagnostic tests for Lyme and tick-borne diseases, including next generation polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and new testing methodologies such as proteomics and metabolomics. The Committee directs NIAID to support research on the heightened incidence of Lyme Disease and vector-borne diseases due to global warming.*

NIH

Lyme and Other Tick-Borne Diseases.--The Committee encourages NIH to improve early diagnosis and treatment of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases (TBD) to prevent the development of late stage disease and more serious and longer-term disability, but also intensify research on diagnosis and treatment of late stage and chronic disease. In addition to development of highly sensitive and specific diagnostics for all stages of disease, a goal should be to develop diagnostics with appropriate sensitivity and specificity for the detection of infection. Treatments also should be developed for all stages of Lyme and other TBD, determining optimal combinations of new candidate or older drugs and exploring novel combinations.

*The Committee strongly encourages NIH to hold a workshop on the numerous molecular and functional mechanisms that *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Bb) employs to evade and subvert the immune system of the human host and the immune responses and consequences. The Committee supports inclusion of other TBD pathogens to consider shared and unique characteristics of the pathogens as NIH determines practical for the workshop, with participation by researchers who have published peer-reviewed articles describing such mechanisms and immune cell responses, particularly for Bb.*

Senate Report Language for FY 2020

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY2020%20Labor-HHS%20Appropriations%20Act,%20Report.pdf>

CDC

Lyme Disease and Related Tick-Borne Illnesses.—With more than 300,000 individuals suffering from Lyme disease, especially in rural States across the United States, an improved understanding of the disease is essential to the health and wellbeing of Americans. The Committee includes \$14,000,000, an increase of \$2,000,000, and encourages CDC, in coordination with NINDS and NIMH, to include in their surveillance the long-term effects of Lyme disease. CDC is also encouraged to coordinate with NIH on publishing reports that assess diagnostic advancements, methods for prevention, the state of treatment, and links between tick-borne disease and psychiatric illnesses. The Committee recognizes the importance of prevention and control of Lyme disease and related tick-borne diseases, and directs CDC to support surveillance and prevention of Lyme disease and other high-consequence tick-borne diseases in endemic areas as well as areas not yet considered endemic.

NIH

*Lyme Disease and Other Tick-Borne Diseases.—With an estimated 300,000 new cases of Lyme disease each year in the United States, and tens of thousands more suffering from other tick-borne diseases, improved understanding and treatment of these diseases is essential for the health and well-being of Americans. The Committee encourages NIH to issue requests for grant applications for research to investigate causes of all forms and manifestations of Lyme disease and other high-consequence tick-borne diseases, including post-treatment symptoms, as well as research to develop diagnostics, preventions, and treatments for those conditions, including potential vaccine candidates. The Committee notes that in patients who suffer from long-term complications associated with Lyme disease, clear treatment pathways are not yet defined. The Committee urges NIAID, in coordination with CDC, to study the long-term effects on patients suffering from post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome, or “chronic Lyme disease.” Specifically, the Committee urges NIAID to evaluate the effectiveness of laboratory tests associated with the detection of *Borrelia burgdorferi* to diagnose the disease early, which can improve the treatment of patients suffering from Lyme disease. The Committee is also aware of promising vaccine innovations to combat *Borrelia* and requests a report within 90 days of enactment on agency activities to support Lyme vaccine development. The Committee also encourages NLM, in coordination with NIAID, to update its terminology in line with new research to more accurately reflect the long-term effects of Lyme disease.*