Date

Address

Dear ,

As your constituent, I am OR I am writing on behalf of ORGANIZATION NAME, asking you to co-sponsor S.1657, the TICK Act.

The TICK Act stands for "Ticks: Identify, Control, and Knockout Act". This important bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tina Smith (D-MN), would significantly improve coordination at the federal level and provide communities and states with resources for prevention, early detection, and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Specifically, this legislation would:

1) Require HHS to Develop a National Strategy to expand research, improve testing, and coordinate common efforts with DOD, USDA, EPA, and the Departments of Interior and Homeland Security.
2) Reauthorize Regional Centers of Excellence in Vector Borne Disease at $10 million for each of FY2021 - FY2026. These Centers collaborate with academia and public health agencies for surveillance, prevention, outbreak response.
3) Authorize Grants at $20 million for each of FY2021 - FY2026 to State health departments to build a public health infrastructure for Lyme and other tick and vector-borne diseases, and expand initiatives through public-private partnerships.

Your support of S.1657, the TICK Act is urgently needed. The overall number of Americans infected by Lyme and tick-borne diseases is rising and there is no end in sight. Last year, there were 450,000 cases of Lyme, a 1,400 percent increase from 2003.

Please WRITE YOUR OWN STORY HERE or DELETE. For example: I got Lyme disease in 2015, while hiking on my favorite trail in… The disease has been devastating, and I am still fighting it everyday.

Lyme disease costs our nation more than $75 billion per year, including direct medical costs and indirect costs such as loss of work. As your constituent, I urge you to join the effort to combat Lyme and other tick-borne diseases by co-sponsoring S.1657, TICK Act, and become an advocate for this urgently needed, and long overdue, legislation.

Sincerely,

Name