Ticks: Identify, Control, and Knockout (TICK) Act

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Tina Smith (D-MN), and Senator Angus King (I-ME)

Tick-borne diseases such as Lyme, once considered a local or regional problem, have become an alarming national threat. The number of Americans with tick-borne diseases has been rising at a staggering rate over the past fifteen years. In 2003, Lyme disease infected around 30,000 Americans. In 2018, there were an estimated 450,000 cases, an astonishing 1,400 percent increase.

Reported cases of Lyme disease are on the rise across the nation. A coordinated National Strategy is needed now to end this growing crisis.

TICK Act Summary:

- Establishes an Office of Oversight and Coordination at HHS to develop a National Strategy, expand research, improve testing and testing, and coordinate common efforts with DOD, USDA, EPA, and the Departments of Interior and Homeland Security
- Reauthorizes 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.
- Authorizes CDC 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.

Endorsements: The TICK Act is supported by more than 25 organizations, including the Entomological Society of America, National Association of Vector-Borne Disease Control Officials, Midcoast Lyme Disease Support & Education Organization in Maine, the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials.