

Ticks: Identify, Control, and Knockout (TICK) Act (S.1657)

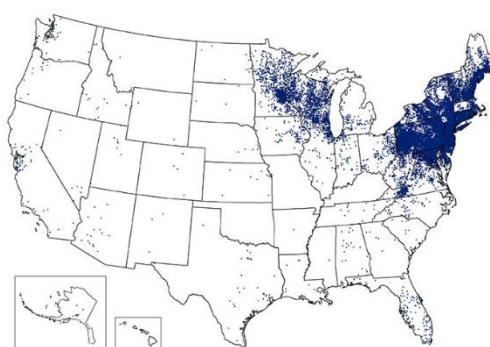
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)

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.***



2003



2017

TICK Act Summary:

- **Establishes an Office of Oversight and Coordination** at HHS to develop a National Strategy, expand research, improve 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 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.

Cosponsors: Senators Angus King (I-ME), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Christopher Murphy (D-CT)