



GMCA in DC

AMCA 2024 Washington Conference Updates



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Division of Environmental Health



Conference Schedule

- Monday, May 13th 2024 – Travel to DC
- Tuesday, May 14th 2024 – Prep Day
- Wednesday, May 15th 2024 – Capitol Hill Day
- Thursday, May 16th 2024 – Return to GA

Advocacy vs. Lobbying

- Advocacy and lobbying share the common goal of promoting a cause or influencing public policy, but they differ in their approaches.
- Advocacy encompasses a broader range of activities, such as **public education**, **community organizing**, and **providing information to policymakers**. It aims to **raise awareness** and build support for an issue without directly influencing specific legislation.
- On the other hand, lobbying involves direct communication with policymakers to influence their decisions on specific legislation or regulations. While both are essential for driving change, advocacy focuses on building a foundation of support, while lobbying centers on direct engagement with policymakers to achieve specific legislative outcomes.
- While all lobbying is advocacy, not all advocacy is lobbying.

2024 Key Issues Priorities

America Needs Mosquito Control - Mosquitoes are more than just a nuisance. They transmit a variety of pathogens to people and wildlife. To aid in our efforts to protect the public's health and welfare, AMCA supports reauthorization of the SMASH Act and appropriations needed by the nation's vector control professionals.

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in Mosquito and Vector Control. H.R. 820, the Foreign Adversary Communications Transparency Act, and H.R. 2864, the Countering CCP Drones Act, if enacted, will unduly restrict the use of UAS critical for public health and vector control purposes. AMCA asks that the public health mission of mosquito control agencies be taken into consideration when determining how to regulate UAS technology and address cybersecurity concerns.

The Farm Bill's Impact on Vector-borne Disease Prevention. AMCA supports language in the 2023 Farm Bill which will reauthorize the Interagency Working Group on FIFRA/ESA; support an enhanced role for USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy in federal pesticide regulation; provide pesticide preemption language preventing localities from regulating pesticides, and reduce regulatory burdens placed upon our programs nationwide.

Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act. AMCA supports the "Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2023" (the text of which was introduced as HR 5089). This legislation will eliminate costly, duplicative, and unnecessary Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements which impact our member's ability to adequately control mosquitoes.

Funding for the SMASH Act and a Nationwide Database for Vector Surveillance. AMCA will ask Congress to support public health efforts by funding the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act, including a \$10 Million increase in funding available for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Divisions of Vector-Borne Diseases and Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity.

Pre-Hill Preparations

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|----------------------------|--|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am - 9:15 am | AMCA President's Welcome – <i>Rui-De Xue, Ph.D. (AMCA President)</i> |
| 9:15 am - 9:30 am | Introductions and Recognition – <i>Mark Clifton, Ph.D. (Legislative and Regulatory Committee Chair)</i> |
| 9:30 am - 10:15 am | Your Role in Public Health Advocacy - <i>Georges Benjamin, MD (Executive Director, The American Public Health Association)</i> |
| 10:15 am - 11:00 am | Pesticide Risk Assessments and the Regulatory Process – <i>Robert Peterson, Ph.D. (Montana State University)</i> |
| 11:00 am - 11:45 am | National Strategy for the Prevention of Vector Borne Disease in Humans, Released February of 2024 – <i>Daniel Desautels, Ph.D. (Health Scientist, United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS))</i> |
| 11:45 am - 12:00 pm | Closing comments and questions from the morning session |
| 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm | Break for lunch (on your own) |
| 1:00 pm – 1:20 pm | Meeting Objectives and Materials, Regulatory Update – <i>Angela Beehler</i> |
| 1:20 pm – 2:00 pm | Talking to your legislators makes a difference! – <i>Senate Agriculture Committee Staff Member</i> |
| 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm | AMCA Position Papers – <i>Legislative and Regulatory Committee</i> |
| 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm | As needed, practice meetings with legislators, last-minute questions and assistance with setting up last-minute Congressional meetings |



Pre-Hill Preparations

Capitol Hill Day

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|------------------|---|--|
| 9 | Senator Ossoff (GA) Meeting 216 Hart SOB | |
| 10 | Senator Warnock (GA) Meeting 416 Russel SOB | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 ^{PM} | Rep Nikema Williams - Drop In Longworth HOB 1406 | Rep. Rich McCormick Drop-In Longworth HOB 1213 |
| 1 | Representative Rick Allen (GA-12) Meeting 462 Cannon HOB | |
| 2 | Representative Andrew Clyde (GA-9) Meeting 521 Cannon HOB | |
| 3 | Rep. Hank Johnson Drop In Rayburn HOB 2240 | Rep. Buddy Carter Rayburn HOB 2432 |
| 4 | Representative Austin Scott (GA-8) Meeting 2185 Rayburn HOB | |
| 5 | | |



Capitol Hill Day

Post Conference Follow Up

- Left GMCA one pager and AMCA legislative position summaries with Senatorial/Congressional staffers.
- Followed up with digital copies of documents and thanked staffers for taking time to meet with me.

2024 Key Issues Update

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Any Questions?

