The bills we are concerned with are:

**H.R.6 — 21st Century Cures Act**
(NOTE: Incorporates **H.R.789 — Tick-Borne Disease Research Accountability and Transparency Act of 2015**)

**S.1503 — Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2015**

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1. Congressman Gibson’s sponsored TBD HR 789 has been rolled into the **21st Century Cures Act** HR6.
If you click on this link [H.R.6](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/6), you will see that it includes many diseases and that Lyme and TBD are just a small part of it. The Act was "established to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of innovative cures, treatments and preventive measures. From what we understand the president said he wants this bill and will sign it.

2. In the Senate, Senator Blumenthal's sponsored **S.1503** which has 9 cosponsors ([https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1503/cosponsors?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22tick%22%5D%7D](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1503/cosponsors?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5D%7D)). This bill is stronger in its prevention research which is best for IPM. Even the title demonstrates that:"**Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2015**"

The Senate will have their own version of a 21st Century Cures Act, I believe it is called "The Innovation Act." Work on this will accelerate when the Senate reconvenes after Labor Day.

This like H.R.6 will include many diseases and there is no guarantee that it will contain S.1503 wording on Lyme and TBD. Therefore, we should be contacting all 100 U.S. Senators asking them to cosponsor or support it.

We all have agreed that there is critical need for prevention research and S1503 is considerably stronger in it's language on that topic. Without more emphasis on this, the scourge of TBD will continue to increase and spread. It is an environmental problem that must be fixed at the source, which are the ticks. Scientists need funding to do this critical work in this long ignored field. Considering the huge cost of TBD, economically it is the sensible approach to reducing the cost of disease, by reducing the numbers of infected people.

Therefore, I suggest that our IPM workgroup encourages others to call their U.S. Senators asking them to cosponsor or support S1503. This is the link to locate your US Senator and Representative: [https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup](https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup)

We ALL should do this and encourage associates, family and friends to do the same. If we do not ask, they do not know about it. Senators listen when they hear from their constituents about the same topic. When the bill comes into the Senate for discussion, we want US Senators to say, "yes, I know about this issue," not, "I haven't heard about this, I guess my constituents are not interested."
To this aim, The Coalition for Federal Lyme Legislation will be making an easy way for people to do this called "Voter Voice." People will be able to log on and fill in their name and address, make a statement of their own should they wish, and it figures out who their 2 federal senators are and sends their email to them. We hope that all 100 U.S. senators will be contacted.

For those of us in the IPM, we could make a comment about the dire need for tick intervention research to prevent the onslaught of TBD.

**Following a conference call Wednesday evening, I expect to send you an email with the explicit details and link to Voter Voice.**

BTW, following the Senate's passage of their version (if it does pass), the two bills, it and H.R.6 must be reconciled to have the same language and passed. Then it goes to the President to become law. As I said previously, we understand that Obama wants this bill.