



Rider & Associates

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\$622 Million Measure to Battle the Zika Virus

House Republicans have unveiled a \$622 million measure to battle the Zika virus, offering President Barack Obama just one-third of the money he requested almost three months ago. The measure by Kentucky Republican Harold Rogers is scheduled for a vote later this week. The legislation provides funding for developing a vaccine, controlling the mosquitoes that spread Zika, tests to detect the virus, and international mosquito control. Zika can cause severe birth defects. The bill is financed by cuts to unspent funding passed in 2014 to battle Ebola as well as leftover funding at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Understand the Communities of Microbes That are Crucial to the Health of People and the Planet

The White House is beginning a major project to better understand the communities of microbes that are crucial to the health of people and the planet. The National Microbiome Initiative being announced Friday aims to bring together scientists who study the microbes that live in the human gut and in the oceans, in farm soil and in skyscrapers. Leading researchers have long urged such a collaboration. The ultimate goal is to control microbes for better health. The U.S. government spends about \$300 million a year on microbiome research, and the new initiative will add \$121 million more this year and next. The Obama administration says dozens of universities, foundations and other organizations will partner with the government for additional microbiome projects.

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