



Bedbug Legislation Talking Points & Things to Ask For

What to Ask For When Visiting House Members	What to Ask For When Visiting Senators
We are looking for a partner on bed bug legislation and would love for your office to connect with NPMA staff if interested in working with us.	We are looking for a partner on bed bug legislation and would love for your office to connect with NPMA staff if interested in working with us.

Background:

- Bed bugs are considered a significant public health pest by the EPA because their bites can cause allergic reactions as well as psychological problems including stress, anxiety, and even PTSD in extreme cases.
- Trained pest management professionals can inspect, diagnose and craft an integrated approach to manage bed bugs, particularly in large multi-family dwellings, hotels, libraries and other sites.
- A licensed professional will be much more effective than do it yourself efforts which often only perpetuate the problem and contribute to insecticide resistance.
- Multiple media reports have covered residents attempting to use rubbing alcohol and accidentally setting apartments or entire buildings on fire, as well as residents using chemicals incorrectly or not labeled for bed bug control.
- NPMA has developed comprehensive bed bug Best Management Practices (BMPs) for professionals to follow that outline prescriptive protocols for heat treatments, canine inspections, chemical treatments and how to develop a comprehensive plan to treat and eradicate bed bugs.

State Legislation

- States that have passed bed bug bills often put the onus on the landlord or property manager to keep their facilities bed bug free and encourage open communication by the resident without fear of retaliation. The landlord or manager should have the responsibility of keeping buildings bed bug free, given the tenant complies with all treatment recommendations and assists in the process.

Current Status:

- NPMA is looking for Congressional partners to help address the crisis of bed bugs. NPMA requests that members of Congress engage with affected industries and find a path forward to help manage bed bug infestations, particularly for those who are unable to afford treatment on their own.
- NPMA is looking for offices that want to partner on this effort. While we've had good feedback when discussing funding research into the effects of bed bugs and treatment strategies in affordable housing, we are open to other aspects if there is Congressional interest.



Why NPMA Cares:

- This is an excellent way to craft bipartisan legislation, as well as with members in urban districts.
- NPMA is positioning the industry as a leader in public health, and this helps with those credentials.
- We strongly urge any treatment of pests to be performed by trained pest management professionals.

What to Highlight When Speaking with Democratic Offices

- Bed bugs have become a socio-economic problem in that those constituents living in affordable housing are not always financially equipped to hire a trained professional to treat their bed bug infestation.
- Without access to treatment, tenants tend to try and treat bed bugs themselves and/or move to other affordable housing, typically spreading infestations from building to building.

What to Highlight When Speaking with Republican Offices

- A public-private partnership allows the flexibility for professionals to devise and treat affordable housing units for bed bugs in a manner that provides a solution to bed bug infestations.
- Pesticide applicators are crucial in protecting public health and property. By encouraging the hiring of commercial pesticide applicators, tenants in affordable housing can feel confident they are receiving the highest level of treatment for their bed bug infestations.