



**70th Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

July 12 – 15, 2015

**Resolution on Animal and Plant Disease
Research and Funding**

- WHEREAS,** food production has been challenged in recent years with the emergence of invasive animal and plant diseases like citrus greening, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), invasive pine beetles are impacting our food supply and damaging wide swath of crop and forest land; and
- WHEREAS,** using the recent HPAI infection as an example, more than 48 million domestic poultry were destroyed in the Midwest alone in the last four months; and
- WHEREAS,** farmers, foresters and agriculture related businesses have seen significant losses in revenue and jobs have been lost and furloughed; and
- WHEREAS,** state, provincial and federal governments are investing millions of dollars to respond and recover from these disease outbreaks; and
- WHEREAS,** MLC recognizes the serious economic and food safety and security threats posed by these and future outbreaks and the role that state, provincial and federal governments play in channeling resources and providing assistance to those affected by these diseases; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** MLC strongly supports the funding necessary for more aggressive animal and plant disease research at all levels, biosecurity containment strategies, and sensitive approaches to information sharing; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that states and provinces work closely together supporting regional veterinary and plant health extension efforts as well as work with universities, affected industries and workers so that they can continue to serve as laboratories of innovation in problem solving and policy making; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

Adopted this 15th day of July, 2015 at the 70th MLC Annual Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota