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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3214

COMMITTEE ON
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<http://www.crowley.house.gov>

August 4, 2016

The Honorable Edith Ramirez
Chairwoman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairwoman Ramirez:

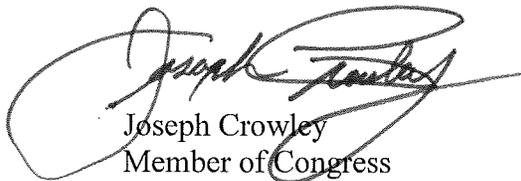
As the threat of the Zika virus continues to grow in urgency, I ask that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) take all possible action to defend the public against businesses and products that are taking advantage of this critical issue to defraud consumers. There have been a number of concerning reports of products promising to protect against mosquitoes or even the Zika virus itself, without offering actual science-based solutions. I urge the FTC to use its public platforms to increase consumer awareness of these scams and to continue to undertake enforcement actions against manufacturers of these misleading products.

My district of Queens and the Bronx, in New York City, was a hotspot of the West Nile Virus outbreak in 1999, and so I have seen firsthand how strongly people want to seek out mosquito-repellent products and extermination services. That is why it is even more important that we stop dishonest companies from preying on this fear and taking money out of the pockets of hardworking Americans.

Zika is a serious issue, and there is an important role for our federal agencies to play in addressing all sides of this crisis. That is why the President has asked for sufficient funding to fight the Zika virus as a public health issue, and why it is so important that all our agencies do what they can to fight Zika fraud as a consumer protection issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to keep Americans safe from threats of all kinds during this critical time.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress