



## **White Paper on Bed Bug Related Public Policy Issues**

Bed bugs, a bloodsucking pest virtually eliminated in the United States only 20 years ago, have reemerged and their resurgence has triggered a slew of problems. Consequently, elected officials and other policy makers at every level of government are actively considering a wide range of bed bug related policy initiatives. While not every bed bug related legislative or administrative proposal concerns or is of interest to the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) or the professional pest management industry it represents many of the initiatives we have reviewed do at least indirectly affect pest management professionals, so we felt it important to more publicly express our views on such proposals. Below is a brief overview of NPMA's positions on a myriad of bed bug related policy issues:

### **NPMA strongly encourages/supports:**

- **Registering new/existing/legacy pesticides for bed bugs for the professional pest management market**
- **Government funded bed bug research**
- **Limiting bed bug treatments in multi-family housing to those performed by certified/licensed applicators**
- **Requiring alternative residential facilities such as hotels, hospitals, college dormitories and nursing homes to contract with or employ commercial applicators to control bed bugs and develop and implement a policy to respond to bed bug infestations**
- **Requiring efficacy data for 25b/minimum risk pesticides labeled for bed bugs and establishing minimum competency standards for the for-hire use of such products**
- **Including bed bugs in the legal definition of the terms "vermin" or "pest"**
- **Formation of a state/municipal bed bug task force/working group/advisory committee**
- **Government subsidies for bed bug treatments of low/fixed income housing**
- **Initiatives assigning specific responsibilities to landlords, tenants and pest management professionals in controlling and preventing bed bug infestations**
- **Coordination/collaboration among government agencies/levels/sectors**
- **More rigorous oversight of claims made about bed bug related products/services to better protect consumers from unscrupulous enterprises**
- **Strengthening sanitation requirements for used mattresses and furniture**
- **Statewide regulation of bed bug related issues as opposed to a patchwork quilt of local rules**

### **NPMA opposes:**

- **Government mandated guarantees for bed bug treatments**
- **Establishment of a bed bug specific applicator category**
- **Mandating wood destroying insect report type inspections for bed bugs**

