

that it could have been prevented, but San Francisco had an extreme so-called sanctuary city policy of not complying with Federal immigration laws—apparently, even when it came to detaining dangerous criminals residing in our country illegally.

In this case, the city's irresponsible policy helped lead to a young woman senselessly losing her life at the hands of a felon who should have never been on the streets to begin with. Senator CRUZ's bill is about getting dangerous criminals off our streets and keeping our communities safer. It will prevent individuals who have been convicted of coming here illegally and who have been convicted of committing serious criminal offenses from harming more innocent victims such as Kate Steinle.

We are a nation of immigrants. We all appreciate the many contributions that immigrants have made to our country over the years. Americans from both parties know it would be incredibly dishonest to pretend this bill is aimed at law-abiding citizens who enrich our country, rather than those at whom it is really aimed—those who come to this country illegally and have criminal convictions. Americans from both parties also understand that extreme sanctuary city policies can inflict incredible pain on innocent victims and their families.

President Obama's own Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has called sanctuary city policies not acceptable and counterproductive to public safety. We took up similar measures last year, and it was unfortunate to see them blocked. Let's work together now to make the right choice and advance these measures to prevent more tragedies like Kate's and support local law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line for us every day.

After the Senate considers these bills, we will move to a bipartisan compromise recently announced by the top Republican and the top Democrat on the Agriculture Committee. This bill would protect middle-class families from unnecessary and unfair higher food prices that could result from a patchwork of State food labeling laws, and it would ensure access to more information about the food they purchase, as well.

While the bill before us may not be perfect, it is the product of diligent work from both sides, which, in fact, worked very hard to reach an agreement. It is a commonsense measure based on science, which has not shown health, safety, or nutritional risks associated with bioengineered products.

Senator ROBERTS, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, said this bipartisan bill recognizes the 30-plus years of proven safety of biotechnology while ensuring consumer access to more information about their food. The ranking member of the Agriculture Committee, a Democrat, calls it "a win for consumers and families." With cooperation from across the aisle, we will pass it.

I also filed cloture to begin debate on the fiscal year 2017 Defense appropriations bill, which funds the training, equipping, and readiness of our Armed Forces. This bill provides the men and women who protect us with the resources they need to execute their missions, and it provides our military with the tools it needs to prepare and modernize the force, which is critical at a time of numerous threats to our Nation.

Senators from both sides have already passed a bill to authorize funds for national defense priorities. Now it is time for Senators for both sides to pass this bill that will actually appropriate those funds.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am sure the American public recognizes that we are returning from another vacation—a break, as they are called—without a serious proposal to address Zika.

Zika is a threat. It is a scourge. In less than 10 days, the Senate will adjourn for its longest break in many decades. Sadly, though, Republicans are no closer to getting serious about Zika. The Senate will vote again on their cynical conference report, which I will describe in some detail in a minute. It is full of partisan provisions designed to inject politics into a public health emergency.

This bad legislation will never pass and will never get a Presidential signature. We should be working for a bipartisan solution, but my friend the Republican leader said we are going to vote on this again. Vote on this again—that is too bad.

It is not a surprise that the party of Donald Trump and MITCH MCCONNELL refuses to responsibly address the threat posed by Zika. It is a virus like we have never seen before. Mosquitoes have caused problems for many, many generations but never, ever, birth defects.

Democrats have spent more than 4 months sounding the alarm on Zika and have called on Republicans to join us to fund a responsible response to this threat. It was looming, and now it is here. But Republicans have refused to make Zika a priority.

It hasn't always been this way. In the not-too-distant past, Republicans worked with us on crises and disasters. The last three public health emergencies—Ebola, H1N1 flu, avian flu—had much higher pricetags, yet responses to each passed Congress in a very short period of time.

It has been 130 days since President Obama requested \$1.9 billion for public health officials to protect the American people against Zika. This isn't some figure he came up with out of the

air. He was told this by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and other public health officials.

Republicans have simply ignored this emergency. It is an emergency. So why is the party of Trump and MCCONNELL treating Zika differently than they treated every other modern public health emergency?

Well, maybe it could be that it is uniquely devastating on women. I would hate to think this is the case, but you can't ignore the facts when women face the greatest risk—terrible risks. Everyone now knows these mosquitoes are ravaging thousands and thousands of people, and tens of thousands of women have this virus. We don't yet know how many will give birth to these deformed babies.

Suddenly, Republican men suddenly feel they know best about women's health. This isn't new. They have always done that. You see on TV that the people who are the most pro-life are men, not women.

Every day new reports emerge of Americans being affected with Zika. Right now we know at least of about 550 women who have this infection. It has been proven in labs. As I have indicated, millions more are threatened, and women in States with large Latina populations are at the greatest risk.

Zika has been linked to many health problems but notably a terrible birth defect called microcephaly, which happens when an expectant mother contracts Zika. Already, seven babies in the United States have been born with birth defects caused by Zika. Most of them haven't survived.

We have all seen the images of these babies with their small skulls, most of them caved in. It is heartbreaking, but we should do something to stop it.

Still, the Republican leader is wasting time with failed votes on really unserious legislation. This sort of reckless partisanship—no matter the cost to women and families—is exactly the sort of behavior that led to the rise of Donald Trump, the sort of legislation you would expect from Trump and MCCONNELL's new Republican Party.

To get the votes of the loudest, most bizarre members of the tea party, Republicans are pushing one of the most irresponsible pieces of legislation we have ever seen in Congress, ever. Not surprisingly, Republicans returned to their obsession with defunding Planned Parenthood. This isn't new. This is the old playbook: Let's defund Planned Parenthood; let's go out and get some phony pictures of what they are doing—which have all been proven to be false. But let's do something to go after Planned Parenthood—led by, of course, men, with rare exception.

The Republican bill would restrict funding for Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics. These are the very places that provide birth control to women in Zika-affected areas. Planned Parenthood has provided many women a place to go to get