

their health care. This is beyond hypocrisy. Republicans are expecting women to magically stop the spread of Zika and prevent their babies from developing birth defects, all while denying them access to family planning services.

But Republicans don't stop there. Their bill would also hurt veterans by slashing the Senate's level of funding to the VA by \$500 billion. What was that money to be used for? Processing claims of veterans. They wiped that out. It would roll back environmental protections, and the clincher, as we all know, is they would allow the Confederate flag to fly over cemeteries. These provisions are as unacceptable as they are partisan. That is why Senate Democrats rejected the outrageous Republican bill and will do so again.

The Zika threat is growing, but that hasn't changed the Republicans' vacation plans. They need time to unify around Donald Trump in Cleveland but no time for American women. For today's Trump and McConnell Republicans, a public health crisis that is disproportionately dangerous to women isn't worth serious, bipartisan action. Add to that fact that Zika is affecting women by the tens of thousands in Central and South America and the picture becomes even clearer: The anti-immigrant party of Trump and McConnell would rather be on vacation than lift a finger to help.

The National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control are warning that vaccine research and other efforts to protect Americans from Zika is likely to stop without immediate action from Congress.

A poll released last week by the Kaiser Foundation found 72 percent of Americans want the government to spend more to fight Zika—not less, more. We need to act, and we need to act now.

It is obvious that picking a fight over women's health is more important to Republicans than a bipartisan response to stop the spread of this dreaded virus. Democrats have called on Republicans to work with us to get something done. A 7-week vacation should be delayed. There is no excuse for inaction and partisanship. We cannot afford to waste another day, a week, another month—we have already wasted 4 months—for Republicans to help stop the spread of this emergency. Let us get to work and do it now.

IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Finally, on another subject, Mr. President, Senate Republicans today will promote Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric with action. This afternoon, the Senate will vote to consider a pair of bills proposed by the junior Senators from Pennsylvania and Texas. These bills follow Trump's lead in demonizing and criminalizing immigrant Latino families.

Senator TOOMEY's bill will undermine the ability of local law enforcement to

police their own communities and to ensure public safety. It would deny millions of dollars of critical community and economic development funding to cities and States that refuse to target immigrant families. Senator TOOMEY's legislation would simply create more problems. It wouldn't solve anything. Not surprisingly, it is opposed by mayors, domestic violence groups, Latino and civil rights groups, and labor organizations.

Senator CRUZ's bill is no better. It would enact unnecessary mandatory minimum sentences and would cost billions and billions of new dollars, increasing the prison population and siphoning funding from State and local law enforcement. Worst of all, this sort of partisan, piecemeal approach undermines bipartisan efforts to enact badly needed reforms in our criminal justice system.

One desk over from me is DICK DURBIN, the assistant Democratic leader. He has worked for years on doing something about the criminal justice system. He has been joined by a bipartisan group of people to get something done, but, again, the Republican leader is too interested in doing things that mean nothing than doing something that means something.

By pursuing legislation targeting so-called sanctuary cities, Republicans are legislating Donald Trump's vision that immigrants and Latinos are criminals and threats to the public. Republicans want red meat going into the convention and desperately want to pivot from the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our nation and the epidemic of Zika, but Americans deserve a real solution to our broken immigration system, not political games and dog-whistle politics.

If Senator MCCONNELL wants to bring this legislation forward, we are going to take a serious look at it. Maybe getting on the bill might be the right thing to do. If we get on that, and the Republican leader said he wants a robust amendment process, well, we will be happy to give him one. We will have a number of amendments on guns, we will have a number of amendments on Zika, and we will do something about comprehensive immigration reform. So we are going to take a look at that. We may just get on that bill and find out if we are going to have this robust amendment process, but let's address comprehensive immigration reform, guns, Zika, and other issues. We are happy to do that. This may be an opportunity for us to move forward on those issues.

Will the Chair announce what the Senate is going to do the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

STOP DANGEROUS SANCTUARY CITIES ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3100, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 531, S. 3100, a bill to ensure that State and local law enforcement may cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I see my colleagues from Kansas and Michigan on the floor, and I know they are here to speak on the GMO issue. I will make a brief statement and cut short what I planned on saying so they can take the floor on this important and pending issue.

The Senate Republican leader came to the floor this morning and congratulated the Senate on the fact we passed, on a bipartisan basis, the Puerto Rico legislation necessary to deal with the financial disaster they face. We did that last week, truly in a bipartisan way. The Republican leader said this morning we need to keep our focus on serious issues, but then he comes to us with four bills that he requests we take up during the abbreviated session we have this week and next week, and among those four bills are two he acknowledges are clearly only introduced for the political impact, for the message, they might deliver.

One bill that is being promoted by the junior Senator from Pennsylvania is a bill relating to sanctuary cities. This measure was largely considered and voted on only 8 months ago and defeated in the Senate. Why are we bringing it back today? Well, there has been some candor on the Republican side. The Senator who is offering this measure is up for reelection. He believes this is an important "message amendment" that he needs to take back to his home State of Pennsylvania, and he wants to make sure the Senate takes up this measure before the Republican convention, which starts up in a couple weeks. This is a political tactic that is sadly going to eat up the time of the Senate with the same ultimate result. Senator TOOMEY's sanctuary bill will not pass, but it gives him something to talk about when he goes home and perhaps something to give a speech about at the Republican convention.

Going back to the Senate Republican leader's suggestion that we ought to be focusing in a bipartisan way on serious issues, the first suggestion out of the box on a message amendment is clearly being done for political purposes only. The second measure is one that is brought to the floor at the request of Senator TED CRUZ, the junior Senator from Texas. This will bring us back to some debate over immigration, again,