



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016

No. 104

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the center of our joy, we lift our eyes to You. In a world with change and decay, You are changeless. Your presence makes us glad, and Your peace guards our hearts.

Lord, today keep the eyes of our lawmakers focused on You. May they look to You in their going out and coming in, in their rising up and lying down. May they see You in their labor and leisure and in their pleasure and sorrow. Guide them in life's morning and evening, for the kingdom, power, and glory belong to You. Give them the wisdom to seize this day, working creatively to keep America strong.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3100

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3100) 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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

### ZIKA VIRUS AND VA-MILCON FUNDING BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we all heard Democrats warn that we "cannot delay any longer" on Zika control funding. We have heard them warn that "every day we wait is increasing the risk that we will have problems with Zika." We have even heard them warn that "the mosquitoes are not going to be on recess." But now, as we are about to vote on a bicameral compromise that reflects the \$1.1 billion funding level that Democrats already unanimously supported here in the Senate, they are threatening to block the Zika control money.

The Democratic leader yesterday went so far as to say that his Members "have no choice" but to oppose it. He and our friends across the aisle can try to come up with a line of excuses as to why they are blocking funding to address the Zika crisis and blocking support for our Nation's veterans, but here is what it all boils down to: This is partisan politics.

They might like to pretend this Zika control measure is "woefully inadequate," but Senate Democrats are all on the record supporting this level of funding, and the CDC Director has testified that this \$1.1 billion funding level is sufficient "to do the things we

need to do in the immediate term." That is the head of the CDC.

They might like to pretend that the Zika control measure walks back clean water protections, but that is false too. It actually contains a temporary, targeted compromise to promote mosquito control as long-term solutions like a vaccine are being developed.

They might want to dust off the "war on women" playbook, too, but this Zika control measure actually provides more resources for women's health services through community health centers, public health departments, and hospitals.

It is really puzzling to hear Democrats claim to be advocates for women's health measures when they are the ones trying to block this Zika legislation and its critical resources to protect women's health. The CDC has said: "Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects."

So today Democrats have a choice: Continue pushing thinly veiled partisan arguments and block the Zika control funding or join with us to advance a serious solution and send critical funding to the President's desk right now.

Remember, this legislation is the last chance we have to get Zika control funding to the President's desk for weeks. We should pass it to protect those especially at risk—pregnant women and babies. We should pass it to help prevent the spread of Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses. We should pass it to help keep Americans safer from this public health concern in the midst of mosquito season.

We know that blocking this bill would mean preventing critical anti-Zika funds from moving one step closer to becoming law. But here is what else it would mean: blocking critical funding for our veterans, our servicemembers, and their families. These men and women voluntarily serve in our Armed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S4591