

Congress forget about Puerto Rico or the board that we have appointed to rule in secrecy over the people of Puerto Rico.

We cannot just set it and forget it like one of those super-duper wonder machines they sell on infomercials. Puerto Rico is ours. Its people are ours. Its land is ours. Its bays are ours. Its toxic landfills and lush forests, its schools and hospitals and health care clinics—these are all ours in the sense that we have been given a sacred duty to govern over Puerto Rico responsibly.

An unelected, unaccountable Control Board with no mechanism for oversight, with no commitment to transparency, with no promise of bilingualism or inclusion, stocked with insiders and people with questionable links to the very problems the board is supposed to resolve, this does not give me great confidence that this Congress will be alert when the people of Puerto Rico, our fellow citizens and, more importantly, our fellow human beings, are in need of help.

Tell the board, do not meet in secret, do not take the free gifts and dinners just because Congress allowed you to; serve the people of Puerto Rico.

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URGING ACTION ON ZIKA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the paralysis in Congress over funding Zika virus eradication efforts.

I have been warning my colleagues in Congress for months that the Zika virus would severely impact our Nation, and especially south Florida, the gateway to the Americas. And while Washington has slumbered through the late summer, it has been a busy August in south Florida dealing with the fallout. It is because of Federal inaction that now Miami-Dade County will be spending \$10 million of our own budget to cover for some of the expenses in the fight against Zika.

Back in February, I cosponsored four bills to help start comprehensive preparations for the virus' arrival, including opening up funding sources for mosquito control, freeing the administration to reprogram unspent Ebola funds for fighting Zika, and incentivizing pharmaceutical companies to begin developing treatments and vaccines for Zika.

In March, I requested that \$177 million be made available specifically for aid to local mosquito control programs, extra funding for the CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, and new dollars for innovative mosquito control tool development.

In April, I voted in favor of using the FDA's Priority Review Voucher Program to incentivize Zika virus treatment development.

In May, I voted to give State and local authorities a temporary waiver providing more flexibility in using EPA-approved insecticides for mosquito control.

I also voted against an inadequate \$600 million Zika supplemental funding bill, joining 183 other Members, because public health experts contended that it would not be enough to deal with the expected impact of Zika in the U.S.

In June, I voted in favor of a \$1.1 billion Zika funding bill that passed the House but did not pass the Senate. Yesterday, the Senate again stopped any debate on Zika funding.

In response to a meager grant sum delivered to the State of Florida after the discovery of mosquito transmission in Wynwood, a section in the city of Miami, in early August, I led the entire Florida congressional delegation in a letter urging the CDC to deliver more funds to Florida, where they were most needed.

As a result of that letter and other efforts, the Obama administration announced that it would indeed reprogram another \$81 million for anti-Zika efforts. But now, the CDC Director has stated that the CDC has no more funds available to use for Zika interdiction and eradication.

We need a comprehensive response, Mr. Speaker, that limits the spread of this virus as quickly as possible. This is long overdue. I was ready to go back into an emergency session weeks and weeks ago to pass a comprehensive package, but despite my pleas, this House did not reconvene. Now the House is back in session, but to this point, no votes on a Zika funding bill are scheduled.

How much longer do south Floridians need to wait for the government to commit more resources to fighting Zika?

My constituents are tired and fed up with excuses and buck-passing. I am sick of Congress' partisan fighting and political grandstanding. I stand united with the hardworking residents and families of south Florida, and I will continue working on their behalf to demand that this Congress do its job and protect the American people.

Let's pass the President's request for \$1.1 billion to fight Zika and develop a vaccine—a clean bill, with no policy riders—and pass it before this virus spreads even wider throughout our great Nation.

Here we have a picture of an area of the district that is impacted already. We have other areas that are impacted. We have other areas in Florida. We have other areas throughout the United States. Let's stop Zika. We can do it. Let's pass the funding bill.

NATIONAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our national security.

Our first obligation as Members of Congress is to keep the American people safe. That responsibility ultimately rests with our Commander in Chief.

We need a Commander in Chief who will support our troops and their families. We need a Commander in Chief who is going to build robust alliances. We need a Commander in Chief who is going to be tough with adversaries. We need a Commander in Chief who is going to be smart on foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Republican nominee for President said that he would ask China to handle the problem of a nuclear North Korea. Now, I know that the Republican nominee for President has outsourced jobs to China. Now he is outsourcing national security to China.

He has insulted Gold Star families, Mr. Speaker. That is not supporting our troops and their families. He has announced that he would weaken our commitment to NATO. That is not building robust alliances. He has said that he has asked Russia to commit cyber espionage against the United States of America. That is not being tough with our adversaries. Outsourcing a nuclear-equipped North Korea to China is not being smart on foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican nominee for President is dangerously unfit for command.

I understand that some don't have all the facts and may not be well-read. That is one thing. Not having the facts and not being well-read and being dangerous is a threat to the United States of America.

FUNDING FOR ZIKA VIRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Zika. I rise with about 100 mosquitoes straight from Florida—*Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes capable of carrying the Zika virus. This is the reason for the urgency. This is the reason for the fear.

These mosquitoes can travel only 150 feet, but through the assistance of a plane ticket and researchers at University of South Florida, they have made their way from Florida to the well of this House.

Now, they are not active carriers, but they could be. The University of South Florida is one of very few research facilities capable of responding. Through the efforts and leadership of Dr. Robert Novak at the College of Global Health, his team of medical public health and research professionals led an insectary to study control and containment and medical and public health solutions to combat, eradicate, and ultimately find a vaccine for Zika. But they can only do so with money.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act. The politics of Zika have gone on far too long. The politics of Zika are wrong.

The President proposed a plan that was imperfect. It assumes a 2-year crisis, when, in fact, there might only be