

block party in Chicago, Illinois. Jessica Williams, 16, witnessed the shooting and suffered an asthma attack that killed her.

Davon Harper, 23, was killed on July 28 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Anna Bui, Jake Long, and Jordan Ebner, all 19, were killed on July 30 in Washington when Anna's ex-boyfriend showed up at the house party with an AR-15.

Carole Comer, 71; her son, John Comer, 50; and her daughter, Rebecca Kelleher, 45, were killed by their husband and father on July 30 in Bridgeton, Missouri.

Takeeya Fulton, 39, and her children, Nuckeria and Corey, were killed by Takeeya's boyfriend on July 31 in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

A few words about my constituent, Teqnika Moultrie, 30, who was killed on July 31 in Austin, Texas.

She was from San Carlos and worked as a school bus driver for Sequoia Union High School District. She was visiting with her wife's family in Austin when a gunman opened fire as she exited a doughnut shop. She died in her wife's arms. They had only been married for 3 months. After her death, her wife said: We just wanted to live a normal life, an everyday life and raise a family, be good moms and do it together. Now we don't get to do anything.

So many of these people killed at parties, on the sidewalks, and in their homes by people who were supposed to love them don't get to do any of that.

Mr. Speaker, deaths matter. All deaths matter.

#### ZIKA FUNDING

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore Congress to take action to fund Zika response efforts in South Florida, throughout the country, and all over the world. Seven months have passed since the administration made its initial request for \$1.9 billion to combat Zika, a request I supported.

As of September 7, the State of Florida alone has seen 596 travel-related cases and 80 Zika infections involving pregnant women. Across the United States, thousands more have been infected with the virus.

Mr. Speaker, Florida has been ground zero for Zika, and we are seeing firsthand the devastating impacts it has not only on public health but on our economy as well.

Neighborhoods in Wynwood and Miami Beach and other communities across Florida are seeing decreased tourist traffic, and some residents, especially pregnant women, are fearful to venture outdoors. My wife and I know pregnant women who have moved away from South Florida to protect themselves and their unborn babies from a potential Zika infection.

Over the months of July and August, I met with the director of the Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Tom Frieden, as well as other government officials, including Senator RUBIO, Governor Scott, and my Florida colleagues from both parties to discuss the progress of the government's response and the importance of funding these efforts long-term.

It is imperative that Congress act on Zika legislation as soon as possible to provide the CDC and other agencies at the national, State, and local levels the tools they need to rid our neighborhoods of this disease. Combating Zika is not a Republican or Democrat initiative. It should be a national priority.

The mosquitos carrying this disease will not discriminate between congressional lines or infect people from only certain States. All Members of Congress from both parties and across the country must appreciate the severity of inaction on passing Zika funding legislation. Let's put politics aside and get this done for our communities and for all Americans.

#### CONDEMNING AL-ASSAD'S BRUTALITY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise again to strongly condemn Bashar al-Assad's atrocities against the Syrian people. It has been reported that the government has, once again, unleashed barrel bombs with chlorine gas in Aleppo as the regime continues its brutal siege of that city. Victims of the attack suffered from breathing difficulties similar to the symptoms we have seen in the past when the government ignored international law by assaulting innocent people with chemical weapons.

This was the second recent chlorine attack that affected Syrians who have been cut off from aid and are unable to escape. In spite of repeated warnings, the Syrian Government continues to utilize barrel bombs filled with chemical weapons as a tool to remain in power.

This continued disregard for human life and the well-being of Syrians underscores why Assad must go and not be allowed to take part in the political transition discussions or Syria's future. The death and destruction in Syria is one of the greatest blemishes on human history. The entire world must do more to put an end to it.

#### BACK TO SCHOOL

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the end of the summer marks the beginning of the school year and a fresh start for teachers, students, and families. As a father of two young students and as a former school board member from Miami-Dade County Public Schools and now the husband of a teacher, I greatly cherish this time of year and the excitement that children feel while preparing to enter the next grade.

Soon after classes started, I visited Redland Middle, a school in my district that has greatly benefited from my amendment to provide students learning English an extra year to become

proficient before test scores count against their teachers and schools. Like all students, English language learners must be counted without being counted out, and their teachers deserve our support.

As a proud member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, ensuring young people the brightest future possible is a central focus of my work in Congress. I wish the students, parents, teachers, support staff, and families of Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys much success as this new school year gets underway.

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#### HONORING MS. TANGELA SEARS

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Tangela Sears, a local activist who has spent decades serving the south Florida community. She has been an outspoken leader on many topics, including gun violence and the need to protect young people in our community from these senseless crimes. She is a confident leader who stands up for her beliefs, and a fearless advocate who works to make south Florida a safer place to live.

A year ago, Tangela's son, David, died at the hands of gun violence, a tragedy she had worked her entire life to prevent. Though heartbroken, she used the memory of David as an opportunity to continue spreading the message of nonviolence and justice more than ever before.

I thank Ms. Sears for her years of service, advocacy, passion, and strength to make our community a better place for all, especially those who live in neighborhoods that have seen a troubling spike in violent crimes. We are extremely grateful for your unrelenting dedication to our community, and I know that David is extremely proud of you.

#### DEMANDING ACTION ON FLINT, MICHIGAN, AND THE ZIKA VIRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues who are demanding action for the families in Flint, Michigan. First, I want to acknowledge many Members of the Michigan delegation, led by Flint's Representative, Congressman DAN KILDEE, who are fighting every day to bring justice to these families. Their work is essential to ensuring the people of Flint have the resources that they need to recover.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Flint is nothing short of a tragedy, and a tragedy that could have been prevented. Michigan State officials sacrificed the health and futures of Flint's children in order to save a few dollars in water costs. This really is a shame and a disgrace.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask, would this have happened in a city where the residents had the advantage of wealth? Or do these gross breaches of public trust only happen in cities where politicians believe the residents are expendable?

Sadly, I think we all know the answer to that question. After the incredible harm that has already been done to these families, our elected officials are, once again, turning their backs on the people of Flint. These families deserve better.

The people of Flint were already hurting before the water crisis. The average family income in the city is just \$24,834 a year. No one can raise a family on that. Many of these courageous and resilient families struggle to find high-quality child care, access healthcare services, and afford healthy food. And now the costs of this crisis are mounting for families, the schools, and the entire community. We can, and we must, do more for our fellow Americans in their time of need.

Two years since this tragedy began, families are still relying on bottled water for daily life. Imagine using bottled water for everything from brushing your teeth to making a bottle for a hungry baby.

We can do better by these families. They need support, including health care, nutrition, specialized education, and developmental care. And we need to fix the root of the problem: the degraded, dangerous pipes, and infrastructure that caused this tragedy.

The shortsighted, dangerous actions of Michigan officials have already caused unimaginable pain for these families. We cannot allow Congress to betray these families as well.

Let me just say that I was part of a congressional delegation that traveled to Flint, Michigan, to listen to the residents regarding the horrendous impact of these government decisions that led to the poisoning of those children and families. The environmental injustice in Flint is an example of how many low-income communities of color throughout our country, not just in Flint, throughout the United States, an example of how they are treated differently than affluent communities.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman DAN KILDEE and members of the Michigan delegation have introduced legislation that would help these families rebuild their lives and get the care they need for their children. The Families of Flint Act, H.R. 4479, is a comprehensive plan to address their most urgent needs. It would provide for critical investment in Flint's water system to replace the lead pipes that poisoned these families.

This legislation would also provide essential support services to the families of Flint to help these children mitigate and overcome lead exposure.

These are simple, commonsense measures for the people of Flint. Addressing this tragedy really shouldn't be a partisan issue. Every Member of this Chamber should understand the

need for urgent action. It could happen in any of our communities. Yet, congressional Republicans have not held one single vote, or even a hearing, on this bill. That is just simply outrageous.

And let me just say that Flint is not the only public health crisis that congressional Republicans have ignored. There are 17,000 Americans—including almost 1,600 pregnant women—who have contracted the Zika virus. The President submitted an emergency request of \$1.9 billion for Zika funding more than 6 months ago, and the Republicans have failed to act on it. Now, if we don't act soon, the CDC will be out of money to combat Zika in a matter of weeks.

Congressional Republicans also failed to do their job on gun violence. Every day, more than 90 million people die from gun violence. This, too, is a public health crisis; but congressional Republicans, once again, have refused to take up any commonsense gun legislation, even though 91 percent of Americans support background checks to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals.

It is clear that the American people need Congress to do its job. The women in Florida who can't leave their homes for fear of a mosquito bite need Congress to do its job. The families who fear gun violence on their block need Congress to do its job.

#### CALLING FOR ACTION ON PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES FACING OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, House Republicans streamed out of the Capitol as I stood on this floor with my Democratic colleagues calling for action on the public health crises facing our country: gun violence, Zika, and Flint, Michigan's, poisoned water.

It is now nearly 8 weeks later. Congress has returned from the longest summer recess in more than 60 years, but we still have seen no action from the Republican majority on our Nation's most urgent crises.

Meanwhile, we are in the midst of a Zika outbreak. Puerto Rico is on track to see 25 of its population infected. Florida has locally transmitted Zika cases, and it is only a matter of time until we see cases in other States. Actually, we have seen some in other States. Parents who should be looking forward to the birth of a child are terrified that the baby may be born with devastating lifelong health problems.

Yet, Republicans refuse to provide the funding we need to combat this outbreak. Instead of passing a bill with sufficient funding, Republicans insist on making sure, believe it or not, that the Confederate flag can fly at VA cemeteries and on preventing family

planning clinics from helping patients with Zika.

That is right. Even though Zika has the greatest impact on women who are, or could become, pregnant, Republicans want to add a rider to stop the family planning clinics that serve women from responding to Zika.

Today, family planning clinics, like Planned Parenthood, are already on the front lines in fighting against Zika. In addition to providing family planning services, Planned Parenthood volunteers are visiting 25,000 households in Florida to find people of reproductive age, especially young women, who have likely not been reached by State or Federal Zika education efforts. They are providing Zika kits for pregnant women, containing items like insect repellent and standing water treatment.

Family planning clinics are an important part of our response to Zika. But instead of recognizing that fact, Republicans have doubled down on their extreme views on women's health.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of the Infectious Disease Institute at the National Institutes of Health, has said in no uncertain terms that if we do not pass additional Zika funding, we will have to stop our efforts to develop a vaccine. Already, Federal agencies have had to borrow money from other critical health priorities to address the Zika problem. We have allowed money to be taken—or the Republicans have—from Ebola, cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. We can't keep fighting back by cutting back our fight against these other diseases.

Republican's refusal to pass Zika funding will have serious, deadly consequences for years to come. Americans can't wait any longer.

At the same time, the people of Flint are still waiting for congressional assistance after the tragic lead poisoning crisis in that city. I joined 25 of my Democratic colleagues in Flint earlier this year. We heard from nearly 200 community members, including parents, worried about their children's future. After that trip, we said we wouldn't forget these families, and Democrats haven't.

Again and again, I have joined with my colleagues to call on Republican leadership to bring the Families of Flint Act—that is a bill—to the floor. Flint's Congressman KILDEE's bill would provide supplemental funding to repair and support this community's needs. Lead has often devastating brain development effects, but families can meet that challenge if we provide the health, education, and the wraparound services that they need.

But months later, we have come up dry. No bill to fund Flint aid. No funding for Zika. No gun safety legislation. Nothing.

What is on the floor this week?

Well, we have bills that will help Wall Street make even more money. And we have a bill to impeach the head