

not the place for that. And I hope members in both parties will agree that it's more important to fund the government than to play politics.

That is what I said when we started this Congress, and that is what the Senators who wrote this letter, which my friend the Republican leader talked about, want to do. We want to do appropriations bills, and we were on a rush to get the first one done. We were headed to victory, and then out of nowhere comes a poison pill rider. Everyone acknowledges that is what it is. There are many definitions of a poison pill rider but, of course, as the President has said, one is when you can't sign the bill.

So it would be to everyone's interest if we would simply step back, pass the bill that exists, and figure out some other way to try to embarrass the President. This is not the way to do it.

Finally, my friend the Republican leader comes to the floor and talks about what a great amount of work we have done in the Senate. We have done as much as we can. We have tried to support everything.

We are a responsible minority. We have not done to them what they have done to us. They opposed everything we tried to do—everything. We had to move to hundreds of motions to proceed.

We are pleased we got the energy legislation done. We tried for 5 years to get it done. We were filibustered every step of the way. We couldn't get it done. So it was brought up again. We cooperated, and we got it done. So virtually everything the Republican leader talked about were things that we tried to do before and they wouldn't let us.

Let's talk about what we haven't done. They talked about having passed opioid legislation. Oops, there is one problem. They didn't fund it. Flint, MI—oops, they did nothing. They ignored it for months and months and months.

There was a mistake. No one disagrees there was a mistake made—not by us but by the Republicans—in drafting a deal with renewable energy credits—not done.

There is the Zika virus. My friend says: Well, we are trying to get information. That is ridiculous. We will hear more about that in a few minutes.

There are no district court nominations, no hearings on the Supreme Court.

There is no need to go over what hasn't been done.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.R. 3038

Mr. REID. Mr. President, imagine though, if you will, that this great country is facing a potential outbreak of a dangerous virus. It is nothing that was made up in the movies, nothing that is on a special TV show. It is actually a potential outbreak of a dangerous virus.

Imagine, mosquitoes are carrying a virus that affects pregnant women, a virus that causes birth defects in babies, not allowing their brains and skulls to develop. The skulls collapse on a number of them. Brains don't develop. It is a virus that can cause men and women to develop nervous system disorders that can result in paralysis. We don't know the full extent of this.

We had a briefing here a week ago today with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. We had the Secretary of Health and Human Services here. They are in a state of emergency. They need to do something. They need to develop a vaccine. This is on its way. It is here.

It is here in Puerto Rico. We have cases reported in the State of my friend, Florida. He is someone with whom I have served in the House and in the Senate. Senator NELSON of Florida is one of our very outstanding Members.

We already know there are cases in Florida. Thirty States are going to be affected with these mosquitoes as the weather warms. I have been told in the past that mosquitoes have never caused birth defects. They have caused all kinds of problems with malaria and other things, but not birth defects. Now they are here.

Imagine, after what I have just laid out to you, that those in control of Congress do nothing to address the imminent danger posed by this virus. It sounds like some science fiction novel; doesn't it? But it is not.

This is real life in America. This is the reality—the Republicans' refusal to respond to the threat of Zika. My friend mentioned that the senior Senator from Washington is involved in trying to come up with something for Zika. She said yesterday she hasn't heard a word from the Republicans in more than a week on this important issue.

This is real life. Zika is a scourge that is already affecting our country, as I have outlined. It is time we pass an emergency appropriations bill to take care of it, to fight it. Out of tradition, common sense, and precedent, a public health threat is an emergency, and it demands a response.

As I indicated, hundreds of people in Puerto Rico—quickly approaching a thousand—are infected. As the weather warms, as I have indicated, it is going to multiply throughout the continental United States. Thirty States will likely be affected with this mosquito—this killer mosquito.

More than 2 months ago my friend said: We need more from the administration. More than 2 months ago the administration—desperate as they were—sent a letter to Congress saying we need an emergency request of \$1.9 billion—out of desperation.

What did the White House do? Two years ago we were fighting Ebola. It is still a serious worldwide problem and a problem for our country. They had to

take money from vaccines they were working on for Ebola and other things and start doing Zika. Now we have a situation where both the mosquito-caused Zika and the Ebola scourge are underfunded now. Republicans have done a double whammy here. We need to give the money back to the agencies that are doing something to help Ebola and fund Zika.

They haven't lifted a finger that we are aware of. As I said yesterday, the senior Senator from Washington hasn't heard from the so-called negotiators in more than a week. They refuse to do anything, even as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health are pleading for us to act. They have been very clear about the funding they need to fight Zika. They are not making up things. They have told us in line and verse.

My friend, the Republican leader said: We need more from the administration. It wasn't all that long ago that my friend the Republican leader was singing a much different song. This is what he said about funding the outbreak of Ebola 2 years ago, and it is a direct quote:

I think they should have anything they want. . . . Whatever the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] thinks they need, we'll give it to them.

He said the same thing 7 years ago when we were faced with another real problem, swine flu. This is what he said then: "So if [the Administration] needs anything additionally from Congress, I know we'll be happy to provide it on a totally bipartisan basis."

Fast forward 7 years, and the Republicans now in the majority won't provide the requested funding for Zika. Why? We know why. They can't get it through over here. They can't get it done.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health know what they need. They have told us. They told anyone who will listen.

So why can't the Republicans give it to them. If they won't give the experts the resources they need to combat Zika, what do they propose? We could ask the Zika-carrying mosquitoes: Don't breed this year.

Remember, anyway, that it is in the last term of a two-term President. Maybe we shouldn't do it this year.

The Senate should not leave today without addressing this serious issue. We shouldn't be taking 10 days off as a dangerous virus threatens this Nation—and it is threatening us. The Republicans should do their job and pass a \$1.9 billion emergency spending bill to help protect Americans from the Zika virus.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield before he makes the request?

Mr. REID. I am pleased to do that. I want the record to be spread with the fact that this good man—more than any other Senator, because of what he

is facing and will face in the very hot, humid, and sometimes tropical State of Florida—recognized this a long time ago. I admire him being ahead of this issue. He has been out there in the front and some of us have been trying to catch up with him.

I yield to the Senator.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding. I wish to add to his comments from this Senator's personal perspective.

The State of Florida presently has 94 infected cases that we know of, including 5 pregnant women whom we know of.

We also have a very mobile and sizeable population of Puerto Ricans who go to that island, where, lo and behold, it is estimated that up to 20 percent of the population could ultimately be infected. There are upwards of close to 100 cases—multiple hundreds—that we know of. I think the actual number is in the eighties of pregnant women whom we know of who are infected in the United States.

As the leader has already described, this has horrendous consequences, not only to the families but there is also the cost to society because of the deformed babies that result—and not necessarily at birth. These defects may come years later, but that is a huge cost to society, not even to speak of the human tragedy.

So is it any wonder that I join with the minority leader in begging for this emergency appropriations of \$1.9 billion.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the amendment and a letter from the President detailing his request be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST TO FIGHT ZIKA—\$1.9 BILLION (S. 2843)  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)—\$1.509 BILLION

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—\$743 million to support Zika prevention and response strategies, including: domestic response efforts to prevent, detect and respond to Zika; providing grants and technical assistance to Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories; and international CDC response activities, including expanding field epidemiology resources and infectious disease surveillance.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—\$246 million to support increasing the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 55 to 65 percent for one year in Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories.

National Institutes of Health—\$277 million to support efforts to develop a vaccine for Zika, as well as to support basic research on Zika virus.

Food and Drug Administration—\$10 million to support vaccine and diagnostic development review.

Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)—\$188 million to support vaccines and diagnostics development and procurement.

Health Resources and Services Administration—\$20 million to support health centers,

the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant/Home Visiting, the National Health Service Corps, and the Countermeasures Injury Protection Program.

Other HHS activities—\$25 million for urgent and emerging threats.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE—\$41 MILLION

Supports U.S. citizens in affected countries, medical support for State Department employees in affected countries, public diplomacy, communications, and other operations activities. Also supports the World Health Organization and its regional arm, the Pan American Health Organization. These resources would support critical public health actions underway, including preparedness, surveillance, data collection, and risk communication. Activities would also include support for the UN Children's Fund's (UNICEF) Zika response efforts in Brazil, and support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to bolster diagnostic capabilities through deployment of equipment, and specialized training and to implement projects to suppress mosquito populations in affected areas.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT—\$35 MILLION

Supports affected countries' ability to control mosquitoes and the transmission of the virus, support maternal health, expand public education on prevention and response, and to create new incentives for the development of vaccines and diagnostics.

The bill also replenishes Ebola money that was reprogrammed for Zika—\$510 million on April 6, 2016, the Administration announced that it had to act to address the growing Zika emergency, so it identified \$589 million—including \$510 million of existing Ebola resources within HHS, State and USAID—to be redirected to immediate activities to fight Zika. The \$1.9 billion will replenish the redirected Ebola funds: \$215 for HHS Ebola balances and \$295 for State/USAID Ebola balances.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, February 22, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Today, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2016 emergency supplemental appropriations request of approximately \$1.9 billion to respond to the Zika virus both domestically and internationally. This funding would build upon ongoing preparedness efforts and provide resources for the Departments of Health and Human Services and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Funding would support immediate response activities to prevent the spread of, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus transmission; fortify domestic public health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to Zika virus transmission; speed research, development, and procurement of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics; provide emergency assistance to States and the U.S. Territories to combat the virus; provide additional Federal Medicaid funding in Puerto Rico and the other U.S. Territories for health services for pregnant women at risk of infection or diagnosed with Zika virus, and for children with microcephaly, and for other health care costs; and enhance the ability of Zika-affected countries to better combat mosquitoes, control transmission, and support affected populations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 50 laboratory-confirmed cases of the Zika virus among U.S. travelers from December 2015–February 5, 2016. In addition, the Pan American Health Organization reports 26 countries and territories in

the Americas with local Zika transmission. On February 1, 2016, the World Health Organization declared the Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

My foremost priority is to protect the health and safety of Americans. This request supports the necessary steps to fortify our domestic health system, detect and respond to any potential Zika outbreaks at home, and to limit the spread in other countries.

The request includes approximately \$1.9 billion to respond to Zika virus transmission across the United States and internationally. In addition, transfer authority is requested to allow for sufficient response and flexibility across the Federal Government to address changing circumstances and emerging needs related to the Zika virus.

My Administration requests that the funding described above be designated as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously in considering this important request, the details of which are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.

Mr. REID. The record should reflect that the people of Puerto Rico are American citizens.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 157, H.R. 3038; that all after the enacting clause be stricken; that the Nelson substitute amendment to enhance the Federal response and preparedness with respect to the Zika virus, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that there be up to 2 hours of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The assistant majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Reserving the right to object, there is bipartisan support for doing what we need to do to address the Zika virus, which, as the Senator from Florida correctly pointed out, has dramatically affected the territory of Puerto Rico. Fortunately, according to the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, there is no single case in the continental United States of a mosquito-borne infection in someone in the continental United States. But that is not to say this is not a serious matter. In fact, it is. That is why Republicans were glad to see the administration use the unexpended funds for the Ebola crisis—some \$500 million—as a downpayment on what is going to be necessary to deal with this.

But the fact is, our friends across the aisle have requested a \$1.9 billion blank check, and they haven't told us what the plan is for the use of the funds. In the bill filed by Senator NELSON, he said those funds will be spent until they are gone. And, of course, it is emergency spending, which is deficit spending and adds to the debt. But the

legislation completely lacks any sort of accountability that would only come through a regular appropriations process where we consider this in a deliberate sort of way. So I have a number of questions for the Senator that I would ask.

I would note that I have traveled to the Galveston National Laboratory, which has done some world-class research in this area and also on the Ebola virus and other infectious diseases. Last Friday I was in Houston at the Texas Medical Center talking to the experts and trying to learn more about this so I can do my job as a Senator in a responsible sort of way.

We all agree that this is a serious matter and it should be negotiated on a bipartisan basis, but we should at least have a plan from the administration for how the money is going to be spent. There is no plan. It is a blank check. And until we get a plan and can sit down and avoid the histrionics and the gamesmanship and the partisanship on something that should be non-partisan, we object to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend the assistant Republican leader has a lot of nerve. There have been a lot of States affected with emergencies in the last decade, and Texas has had its share. We have been willing to help them on floods and fires and all the other problems they have had, some of them manmade, some of them not so. Those were emergencies; this is an emergency.

For the Republicans to come to this body this morning and say there is no plan—there is a plan. Of course there is a plan. There is \$1.9 billion. Pay back the money for Ebola so we can continue that. That is \$500 million right there. We also want to do something to help Puerto Rico, which needs to be done. That is approximately \$200 million. We have some help—a minimum amount—for countries outside the United States where these mosquitoes are breeding. We want to try to do something about that. And, of course, most of the money here is for research to come up with vaccines and other programs to alleviate the disaster facing this country. The President has outlined that, and the Senator from Florida has outlined that.

To have the assistant majority leader say that we need to sit down and negotiate—we are not in the majority. They have an obligation to bring something to the floor. If there is bipartisan support to do something, why aren't the Republicans doing something? Wait and wait while we are home glad-handing people during the next week? We should be doing something here to address this emergency. It is an emergency.

Mr. NELSON. Will the Senator yield, Mr. President?

Mr. REID. Yes, I will.

Mr. NELSON. In answering directly the question of the Senator from

Texas, before he objected, he wanted to ask this Senator a question as to what is the plan.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, has the Democratic leader yielded the floor, or is it for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader has yielded the floor for a question.

Mr. NELSON. All right, I will put it in the form of a question.

Does the Democratic leader believe that this Senator has spoken many times on the floor laying out the specifics of the request of \$1.9 billion, which includes the replenishment of \$589 million to the Ebola fund which had been advanced to fight this emergency? Does the Senator believe that? And does the Senator further believe that I have in my hand that breakdown that I have had printed in the RECORD?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, to my friend from Florida, yes. And where did he get that information in preparing this legislation? He got it from the administration. Everybody knows what is in this legislation. What my friend the assistant Republican leader said is nonsense.

If there is some bipartisan support—and I am confident they would come up with something—we would do our best to try to support it, but this is the legislation we need. This is a desperate situation, and it is going to become more desperate as each day goes by because the summer season is fast approaching.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, let me just suggest that, contrary to what the Democratic leader has said, the questions I have asked about where their plan is are not nonsense, and let me demonstrate the specific questions which I have and which I think other responsible Senators are going to want answers to before we write a blank check for \$1.9 billion to the administration, particularly when they already have access, as the Senator from Florida said, to the \$589 million, which are unexpended Ebola funds.

One of the questions I would like to get answers to—and I think we can then have a meaningful discussion and act responsibly—is, What specific activities are going to be funded by the \$1.9 billion plan? For example, the bill from the Senator from Florida provides \$743 million to the Centers for Disease Control. Is that for domestic activities? Is it focused on Puerto Rico? Is it for CDC international activities? And if so, where?

The second question I have is, What are the agency's priorities? Continuing with the CDC issue, will they focus on vector control activities, outreach, and education? As we know, this is a mosquito-borne disease. It is not the only mosquito-borne disease, but unfortunately this mosquito has not only been present in Central and South America but is now, as the Democratic leader says, present in some of the more trop-

ical climates, the warmer climates, including my State of Texas. So I take this personally and seriously. But it also affects Florida, no doubt about it, Louisiana, and we don't know how it might spread or how this virus might morph over time.

Another question I have is, How long does the administration expect to use the funding? For example, we have an annual appropriations process, which has been filibustered by our Democratic colleagues, starting with the Energy and Water bill, and now they want us to fund an emergency appropriation for an unlimited period of time without any plan to spend the money. That is irresponsible.

The request from the Senator from Florida in his bill says the money will be spent "until expended," until it runs out, and they have provided no further details on what will be funded this year and in future years.

The reason I mention the appropriations process is that we all know we are in the appropriations season now, and it would be appropriate for the Committee on Appropriations to process this request and to come up with a recommendation for the full Senate, but that has not yet happened. I am told the discussions are ongoing, which is a good thing, and that is where this ought to be resolved, not through grandstanding on the Senate floor in an effort to try to make this a partisan issue. This is not a partisan or political issue. It should not be. There is bipartisan concern and willingness to address this issue. But can they spend \$1.9 billion before the end of the fiscal year, when the appropriations process will start up again? In other words, it doesn't take a lot of thought to realize this is a request for a blank check without regard for the accountability that comes from what we call the regular order here in the appropriations process in the Senate.

We know the administration transferred funding from unobligated Ebola funds 2 weeks ago. What is the administration using that \$589 million for that is related to Zika? I think we should know the answer to that. And that also demonstrates what happens when Congress appropriates money on an emergency basis without knowing what the plan is, because obviously the Ebola crisis has abated to some extent. I am not saying it has gone away completely, particularly in countries like Africa, but there is a pot of money—\$589 million—which suggests maybe we inadvertently appropriated more money on an emergency basis for the Ebola crisis than ultimately was necessary. I am not faulting anybody for that; I am just saying that is the way this works when you ask for the money first without a plan and there is no accountability for how the money is spent. You have these pots of money out there that are—fortunately in this case—available now to deal with the Zika issue.

In the Health and Human Services request contained in the bill from the

Senator from Florida, there are other issues. One, they ask for a government-wide contingency fund that Health and Human Services controls and can transfer funds elsewhere. So what they want to do is play a shell game with this money. They want to get the money, and if they do not need it to deal with Zika, they can transfer it for other purposes—again, without any transparency or any real political accountability.

I think responsible Members of the Senate—and I would expect all 100 of us would put ourselves in that category—would want to know where the transparency is, where the accountability is, where the plan is, so we can sit down and do this as mature adults in a non-partisan way in order to solve the problem.

Here is another thing that sort of jumps out at me: When I look at the President's request for \$1.9 billion, they actually talk about funding matters unrelated to Zika. They talk about funding things at the Environmental Protection Agency. And looking at the request to transfer funds government-wide, basically they are requesting money, it appears—unless there is some logical explanation as to why we should, which they have not yet made—on an emergency basis, to grant funds to the Environmental Protection Agency. That is a little hard to understand.

Finally, there is this: All of us are willing to deal with this in a responsible, nonpartisan way. That is the reason I have spent time at the Galveston National Laboratory and the Texas Medical Center trying to learn as much as I can about this, so I can do my job, just as I am sure every individual Senator wants to do their job in a responsible way. But to come in and ask for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding, which means it is not paid for—it is borrowed money, which adds to the deficit and the debt—is a pretty serious matter, especially when our national debt is \$19 trillion and has almost doubled under the Obama administration.

This is a very serious matter, and I treat it seriously, and I trust all 100 Senators believe this is something we ought to deal with responsibly and in a deliberate sort of way, and we will. But it is not by coming to the floor and grandstanding by asking for \$1.9 billion blank checks without any plan to spend it in an appropriate sort of way.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Washington.

#### ZIKA VIRUS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, there are already nearly 900 cases of the Zika virus in the United States and its 3 territories, including actually 2 confirmed cases in my home State of Washington. A recent survey showed that 40 percent of adults in our country see this virus as a reason to delay starting families. Those are disturbing statistics. They make it clear that the Zika virus is a public health emergency, and there is no good reason for the delay we are seeing from our Republican colleagues in addressing this.

Months ago, the administration put forward the strong proposal that Senator REID introduced today. Republicans refused at the time to even consider it, and I am disappointed again this morning that they weighed in on the side of further delay rather than acting on this. As a result, we are getting closer to the summer and to mosquito season, but we still here in this body have not moved on emergency supplemental funding that would put much needed resources into preventing and treating this frightening virus.

Too many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle still don't seem to see Zika as an emergency. Some Republicans are insisting we shouldn't give the administration a penny in additional funding to support the response we need to make. Others are saying that action on Zika can wait—wait for weeks or months. Republicans in Congress might be able to simply wait, but families across this country cannot.

Addressing this Zika virus shouldn't be controversial. With women's and children's health and well-being on the line, it certainly should not be a place for partisanship.

Democrats are at the table. We want to get this done as soon as possible. In fact, as recently as a few days ago I was hopeful Republicans were truly interested in working with us to get this done and to be able to find an actual path forward. We had some good conversations last week. But I am worried that in the last few days it has become clear once again that the extreme right, like the Heritage Foundation, is in control, and Republican leaders have been unable to demonstrate to this point a path on how we can get a bipartisan deal signed into law. This issue is far too important to have Republican infighting hold it up. So I urge my Republican colleagues to join us. We are ready to be at the table to work with them. We need to address this as an emergency.

Then I hope we can move on to work on the other really critical issues before us: the opioid epidemic that so many have been here to talk about; the families in Flint who are suffering; ensuring our Supreme Court nominee gets a fair consideration—a hearing, even. There is so much work to be done.

I am here to urge our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to recognize this is an emergency. It cannot wait. Families are waiting for us to act. We need to get the research. We need to have an understanding of what this disease is. We certainly need to put into place prevention, and we certainly need to work on the important path forward in making sure we have the right kinds of education out there as well as a solution to this problem that is rapidly becoming an American problem.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, if this isn't an emergency, then I don't know what is. Zika is a public health emergency. It defines a public health emergency, and we really have to act now to fund the administration's full \$1.9 billion supplemental funding request.

I want to respond to the assistant majority leader's concerns that there is no plan. With due respect—and I know he is working hard on this as well—that is just not accurate. The legislation propounded by Senators NELSON and others has a very specific plan. I was fortunate enough to visit the headquarters for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. They have a very specific plan. It is vector controlled. It is developing the diagnostic tests necessary to figure out whether or not people are carriers of the Zika virus. It is working on a vaccine. They have a high degree of confidence that they are eventually going to get a vaccine. But this takes time, and this takes resources. It is public health outreach regarding mosquitos and how this is transmitted, and it is assurance regarding the safety of our blood supply. So they have a plan.

Let me be a little more specific: \$743 million for CDC—this money would include grants and technical assistance to Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories and help our domestic and international response activities; about \$250 million for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, or CMS, to increase the Federal match rate to Puerto Rico where there have been 500 active transmission cases—and, unfortunately, that number continues to go up; several hundred million dollars for the National Institutes of Health and BARDA to invest in vaccine research and development. That is the end game, but in the meantime, we have to prevent the transmission as our country warms up and as the mosquitos become more prevalent across the country with \$10 million to the FDA for a vaccine and diagnostics development review and \$335 million to USAID's efforts abroad to support affected countries' public health efforts on mosquito-borne diseases.

I will make a couple of specific procedural points. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I believe it is really important that we are trying to move in the regular order on each individual Appropriations subcommittee.