

I, along with the entire U.S. Senate, send our condolences to his family. Sumner is survived by his wife, Pam Russell, of Alexandria, VA; daughter Sarah of Poughkeepsie, NY; mother Nini Almy of Mitchellville, MD; father Charles Slichter and stepmother Anne Slichter of Champaign, IL; brother Bill of Minneapolis and his wife Helen; brother Jacob of Brooklyn, NY, and his wife Suzanne; sister Ann of Los Angeles; half-brother Daniel of Boulder, CO, and his wife Yolanda; and half-brother David of Binghamton, NY.

I say to his family: Thank you for sharing Sumner with us over the years. Thank you for allowing his bright and radiant personality to shine on us. He will be greatly missed.

ZIKA SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate approved a compromise deal negotiated by Senators Blunt, Murray, and others to provide \$1.1 billion in emergency supplemental Zika funding.

The White House, Dr. Frieden of the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, and Dr. Collins of the National Institute of Health, NIH, told us they needed \$1.9 billion to fight this public health crisis, but the Republican caucus disagreed with these infectious disease experts.

I am not sure why Republicans do not believe the world's best scientists and health officials when they articulate a clear, comprehensive plan to stop Zika. Perhaps they do not appreciate the severity of this public health threat?

When we were faced with cases of Ebola within the United States, we reacted swiftly and decisively. We funded 87 percent, \$5.4 billion, of the administration's request in a total of just 38 days.

Well, now the same number of people in the U.S. and U.S. territories have died from Ebola, as have from Zika—one.

Yet more than 91 days past the date of the formal Zika request, we are debating between just 33 percent, as the House approved, and 58 percent of this request? I fear my Republican colleagues are underestimating the threat from the Zika virus on our Nation's pregnant women.

We know that Zika causes microcephaly, a devastating and tragic birth defect that causes babies to be born with serious neurological complications.

And it seems that every day we are learning something worse. Just yesterday, a CDC and Harvard University study found that pregnant women who are infected with Zika in their first trimester face up to a 13 percent chance of their baby being born with microcephaly.

We also know that the CDC is currently monitoring nearly 300 pregnant women in the United States who have the Zika virus.

The CDC estimates that the lifetime costs for a baby born with this tragic

disease is between \$1 million to \$10 million, not to mention the considerable emotional toll of this disease on families.

Sadly, it doesn't take many cases of microcephaly to begin costing us more financially than the paltry amount House Republicans are committing to fight Zika.

But Zika doesn't just cause microcephaly. It is also linked to other neurological diseases that aggressively destroy brain tissue. It is also linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome, an autoimmune disorder that can cause paralysis and death.

What about the impact of maternal stress on a baby? I cannot imagine the anxiety that pregnant women, especially those in the southern part of this country and in Puerto Rico, must feel right now. Well, through genetics and neuroscience, we know for a fact that a mother's stress during pregnancy can shape her child's gene expression, leading to poor birth outcomes and psychological and physical disorders.

If you call yourself pro-life, why would you not want to do everything you can to protect these babies from being subjected to elevated risk for serious birth defects?

This is a train we have seen coming for miles and miles, and Republicans are refusing to step out of the way.

It is bad enough that House and Senate Republicans are refusing to provide the funding our health experts say is necessary to fight this disease, but now House Republicans are insisting on cutting Ebola funding to do it.

Last week, the House passed a partisan bill that would have provided a mere \$622 million to fight Zika. That is a third of what the experts say they need, and they offset the costs by raiding Ebola money.

House Appropriations Chairman HAL ROGERS called it "excess funding left over from the Ebola outbreak." That couldn't be further from the truth.

I recently spoke with the CDC Director Tom Frieden who told me some troubling news. Last month, there was another cluster of Ebola cases in West Africa, about a dozen new cases. What they have now found is that the Ebola virus can stay in a man's system for up to 1 year, allowing it to be spread to others.

Ebola may not be front page news in the United States right now, but that is largely because our CDC disease detectives are on the ground in West Africa, nearly 100 of them, fighting to contain its spread.

If we keep stealing the funding that enables them to do their job, Ebola could soon again be front page news.

Since Republicans have been dragging their feet on Zika funding, the White House was forced, as a last ditch, stop-gap requirement, to transfer \$510 million away from the Ebola response to fund the immediate response needs for Zika.

As the White House's Ebola czar, Ron Klain, said last week, "we are taking a

fire hydrant out of the ground in one place and moving it someplace else to fight a different fire."

This Ebola money that was moved was the CDC's funds for the next 2 fiscal years, funds that are to be used to build a frontline defense for our own country. It invests in the public health capacity of partner nations, so we aren't waiting for local outbreaks to hit our shores as global epidemics.

These "leftover" funds are being used to develop and test vaccine candidates for Ebola, and late-stage clinical trials are moving forward, but they need those funds to continue validating these vaccines.

Now House Republicans want to drain these Ebola funds again.

We already know what happens when we have to take money from one place in the public health budget and move it elsewhere. State and local health departments lost \$44 million in CDC preparedness grants earlier this year because of a reprogramming of funds that were moved to high-risk Zika States. Illinois lost \$2 million in total. A recent survey of State health departments said that this \$44 million cut will result in staffing reductions and could hamper Zika preparations by forcing a reduction in laboratory services and epidemiological activities. So to be clear, States at lower risk for Zika, like Illinois, lost money to States at higher risk like Mississippi, Texas, and Florida. And this cut will mean that Illinois and other States that lost money are now less prepared for Zika.

Public health preparedness is not done with a wave of a magic wand. It requires steady investments in people, lab testing, and epidemiology and dedicated research and clinical trials.

We did not require our Ebola, H1N1, or avian influenza supplementals to be offset, and we certainly should not begin down that dangerous path now.

As with our response to Ebola here in the U.S., proven public health protocols will work against Zika, but we need to listen to the experts and fund the needed response.

That means we cannot wait any longer to pass an emergency Zika funding supplemental.

Some Republicans have said this money can wait until October 1 when our new fiscal year starts. Do you think mosquitos know when the new fiscal year begins and will wait to buzz and bite until then?

This weekend is Memorial Day weekend. I don't know about you, but in my hometown and across Illinois that means people will be outside and having barbecues. Then comes the Fourth of July and, soon after, Labor Day weekend.

We do not have time to wait around. We need to approve the Senate's Zika supplemental as a down payment, and we need to send it to the President's desk this week.

Over 1,380 people across 44 States, Washington DC, and 3 U.S. territories,

including over 279 pregnant women, have contracted Zika.

To my Republican colleagues, I would say: stop playing games, support our States and Federal health officials, approve the money, and send it to the President's desk. We cannot wait any longer. Pregnant women cannot wait any longer.

**MANDATORY ARBITRATION
CLAUSES IN FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE
ENROLLMENT AGREEMENTS**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have not been shy about coming to the Senate floor to voice my concerns about the for-profit college industry. This is an industry that enrolls 10 percent of college students, collects 20 percent of Federal student aid, and accounts for over 40 percent of student loan defaults. This industry has a terrible track record; yet it continues to collect billions each year in Federal funding. If there ever was an industry that needed to face accountability, it is the for-profit college industry. But for-profit colleges have long avoided accountability to their students and to regulators through the use of mandatory arbitration clauses.

For years, mandatory arbitration clauses have been buried in the fine print of student enrollment agreements at for-profit schools. Students usually didn't even know that, by signing these agreements, they were giving up their right to a day in court if the school's misbehavior caused the students harm. Mandatory arbitration clauses mean, for example, that, if a student is misled or deceived by a school's advertising and goes into debt as a result, the student can't take the school to court. Instead, the student is forced into a secret arbitration proceeding where the playing field is tilted against the student's interests.

Mandatory arbitration clauses allow schools to avoid accountability to their students—and the secrecy of arbitration proceedings means that misconduct stays hidden from the attention of regulators. Mandatory arbitration clauses are not used by legitimate nonprofit colleges, either public or private. But these clauses were widely used among for-profit colleges—including Corinthian, the now bankrupt for-profit college which for years lied to its students and to regulators about its job placement rates and other data.

There is a growing recognition that mandatory arbitration has helped hide misconduct in the for-profit college industry. Also, because these clauses prevent students from seeking meaningful relief in court from the schools that wronged them, students have had to seek relief from the Federal Government for their student loan debt. This means that taxpayers are on the hook for helping these victimized students, instead of the for-profit colleges that harmed them.

I have joined my colleagues in urging the Department of Education to issue

strong regulations to prevent for-profit colleges that receive Federal funds from using mandatory arbitration clauses, and I have called out for-profit colleges that use these clauses.

On April 13, I came to the Senate floor and mentioned three names of schools that use these clauses: DeVry, the University of Phoenix, and ITT Tech. Lo and behold, two of these three for-profit schools—DeVry and the Apollo Education Group, which owns the University of Phoenix—have now made commitments to stop requiring their students to submit to mandatory arbitration. Apollo made their announcement last week, and DeVry officials told my staff that they discontinued the use of these clauses a few weeks ago, on May 13.

This is good news. These actions reflect the growing consensus outside and inside the for-profit industry that mandatory arbitration has no place in higher education enrollment. Also, the decisions by Apollo and DeVry reaffirm that the Department of Education is on the right track in reining in mandatory arbitration. The Department should finish the job by issuing rules that end this practice among all schools that receive Federal dollars.

Now, one note of caution—the devil is in the details when it comes to arbitration clauses. I have heard promises before from education companies to end mandatory arbitration, only to see those companies add new fine print that finds other ways to block students' access to court. I will be carefully checking the fine print of the new enrollment agreements to make sure these schools are not imposing new, more subtle restrictions on their students' access to court. If the fine print does reflect their commitment, I believe Apollo and DeVry deserve credit, but they still have a long way to go to improve student outcomes and prove they are going to dump the old for-profit college playbook.

ITT Tech, the spotlight is now on you. ITT Tech's executives have demanded their own day in court to respond to investigations and allegations of misconduct that were brought by regulatory agencies. At the same time, ITT Tech has continued to force its own students into mandatory arbitration. ITT Tech and all for-profit colleges should put an end to this practice of mandatory arbitration. They should join the growing consensus against these clauses that is reflected in the views of the Department of Education, student groups, veterans groups, civil rights groups, consumer groups, and now even some of the largest for-profit colleges.

It is time to stand up for accountability and for putting students first. It is time to end mandatory arbitration clauses in the for-profit college industry once and for all.

**100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
EASTER RISING**

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate unanimously adopted a resolution to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a crucial milestone in the history of Ireland, the 1916 Easter Rising rebellion. As a son of Ireland through my father's ancestors, I am proud to reflect on this important moment in Ireland's long march to independence.

The relationship between the United States and Ireland is long, it is strong, it is enduring, and it cannot be understated. As President Kennedy once said in a speech before Ireland's Parliament, "No people ever believed more deeply in the cause of Irish freedom than the people of the United States." Both the United States and Ireland have histories rooted in a common set of ideals and goals, and we share similar principles and beliefs in freedom. A marker of the influence of the United States is the fact that our Nation is the only foreign country named in the 1916 Proclamation of the Republic, which proclaimed Ireland's independence.

My relatives on my father's side believed strongly in the promises of opportunity in the United States when they emigrated here in the mid-1800s. Marcelle and I have visited Ireland and met distant relatives who live there still. It is easy to see and feel the strong connections between our two countries.

Last week's centennial anniversary of the Easter Rising, commemorated on both sides of the Atlantic, recalls a turning point in Ireland's history. The influences of freedom, dignity, and prosperity in America that motivated many of the leaders of that rebellion 100 years ago are worth fighting to preserve and nurture here in the United States today. Like so many lessons of the past, the Easter Rising is a moment to reflect on our own freedoms and our own march toward perfecting our own Union.

TRIBUTE TO RUBY PAONE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I may be dating myself when I say this, but I remember when Ruby Paone started work here as a fresh graduate from St. Andrews University. That was April of 1975, just a few months after I began my own tenure here in the Senate, and for more than 41 years, she has served in the U.S. Senate as a public servant of the highest caliber. Ruby is a remarkable woman. Throughout her Senate experience, she has befriended future Presidents and legendary legislators. The Senate permeates her family. She and her husband, longtime Senate aide and now adviser to President Obama, Marty Paone, have raised three wonderful children.

Ruby is from the small town of Bladenboro, NC, and she brings the very best of small towns to this often