

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

of the IRS, mentioned by exactly no one—zero constituents in my district—over the 7-week recess. We have wasted critical weeks during the summer recess, and Republicans are now wasting our first week back in session.

We have only 15 legislative days before we are scheduled to leave town again. Let's get to work and pass the critical funding for Flint and Zika and do something about gun violence.

HONORING THE CLEAR RIDGE BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Clear Ridge baseball team on winning the Senior Little League World Series in Bangor, Maine, on August 6. This is the first team from Illinois to ever win this prestigious international tournament during its 56-year history.

The Clear Ridge Senior League Championship team is made up of 16 extraordinary 15- and 16-year-old men from the Garfield Ridge and Clearing neighborhoods in Chicago, all of whom attend area Catholic high schools. Their journeys to becoming champions began as tee-ball players when they were very young. But this Senior League team only came into existence in May of this year. In a short amount of time, they were able to come together to form an extraordinary team.

Clear Ridge showed dominance throughout the summer by not losing a single regular season game. In the postseason, they continued this trend by winning 19 straight games after a single loss to neighboring Burbank National in the first game of the district playoffs.

The championship game pitted Clear Ridge against Asia-Pacific champion, Australia, whom they had already defeated once in the tourney, and who were considered by some to be the team to beat. But Clear Ridge turned out to be that team, prevailing 7-2 to capture the world title.

The following Saturday, I joined hundreds of people at Hale Park to honor players, coaches, and everyone who contributed to the success of the team. The title and the celebration were especially meaningful to me, having played 8 years in Clear Ridge Little League when I was growing up. This team embodies the best of the close-knit neighborhoods on the southwest side of Chicago that I know so well. These are the people who often seem to be forgotten or overlooked in our country today. Many of these kids have parents who are police or firefighters, and all come from hardworking, middle class families.

□ 1115

When I read the names, you will hear a diverse mix of Irish, Mexican, Polish, and other Central European names. The championship players are: Paolo

Zavala, Mike Skoraczewski, Bobby Palenik, Gary Donohue, Gage Olszak, Noah Miller, Tom Doyle, Joe Trezek, Tim Molloy, Dave Navarro, Mike Rios, Jake Gerloski, Jake Duerr, Mel Morario, Julian Lopez, and Zach Verta.

Of course, these kids could not do it on their own. Team manager Mark Robinson and coaches Ray Verta and Will Trezek provided the strong leadership and dedication that helped demonstrate the importance of determination and the results that come from hard work.

Clear Ridge is more than just this one Senior League team. Multiple teams of both boys and girls compete in various leagues. Heading up all of these leagues are President Adam Rush, Vice President Ryan Aderman, and Treasurer Jay Derby. Without the work of these men and countless others who prepare the fields, work the concessions, and do all of the other thankless but necessary jobs, Clear Ridge could not function.

Congratulations go to the parents of all of the players. They not only raised champion baseball players, but good, respectable young men.

Mr. Speaker, when I met with the team at the celebration, I told them how proud they make me, and I encouraged them to keep up the good work. Now I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this great achievement by the Clear Ridge Senior League team and in congratulating them on their world championship. I wish each and every player continued success.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray this day, O Lord, for peace in our world, that freedom will flourish, and righteousness will be done.

The attention of our Nation is drawn toward an impending election, but there is work yet to be done.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House, that they might judiciously balance seemingly irreconcilable interests. Help them to execute their consciences and judgments with clarity and purity of heart, so that all might stand before You honestly and

trust that You can bring forth righteous fruits from their labors.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOMACK 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONFRONTING THE ZIKA THREAT TO SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the third time this week since the House reconvened to demand Federal funding to stop the Zika epidemic that is impacting families throughout our Nation, but especially in my area of south Florida.

Reports have suggested that even those individuals charged with protecting our communities—in this case, a police officer from Miami Beach—are not safe from Zika as they do their jobs to patrol our neighborhoods.

Local businesses in the Miami neighborhoods most impacted by Zika are suffering, including those at the lovely Wynwood Yard, a very popular outdoor food and culture scene, where small businesses are suffering from reduced foot traffic.

Many public outdoor areas are being closed to visitors, including the beautiful Miami Beach Botanical Garden after extensive testing found Zika-infected mosquitos on the ground.

The Zika virus is costing residents their peace of mind and access to their public spaces and outdoor recreational activities.

Mr. Speaker, we need more Federal funding now to confront this threat. When will Congress act? Every day that we delay is a threat to our families in south Florida.