

Mr. Speaker, since the facts make it clear that major mental health reform is needed for our entire Nation, reform must be a priority for all elected Members of Congress on both sides of the Capitol, for we represent the entire Nation.

The House heard the American people when we passed H.R. 2646 in July with overwhelming, near unanimous bipartisan support. If the Senate won't listen to the House, or me, maybe they should listen to The Denver Post Editorial Board. They write:

"One of the best attempts to improve America's mental health crisis in decades will stall if the U.S. Senate does not get its act together before it goes on another month-long break. Freshly back from vacation, senators should pass . . . Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act . . . the bill sailed through the House with overwhelming bipartisan support . . . its prospects in the Senate are murky . . . Congress is tantalizingly close to accomplishing something that will address the nation's deplorable treatment of the mentally ill. It should not fall victim to the hyperpartisan gun debate."

Mr. Speaker, if the Senate won't listen to The Denver Post, The Wall Street Journal, or The Washington Post, will they listen to the voice of the American people?

We have the daily addition of 118 lives lost to suicide. Since September 1, it has been 1,400. Since the House passed the bill, over 8,000 people have died of suicide. There is also the daily addition of 959 families who join thousands mourning individuals with mental illness who have lost their life in one form or another. Since we passed the bill, the total lives lost is 65,212.

More lives will be lost if we do not fix this broken mental health system that is so desperately in need of repair. It is time that the Senate listen to the voices of the millions who are crying out for help. And for today's new total of 959 more lives, tomorrow is too late.

Millions of Americans are pleading with the Senate: do not go home at the end of this month without passing a bill that the House can also pass and get signed into law. The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act is just that law. We need the Senate to vote this week, not another day. Where there is help, there is hope.

NATIONAL LANDS AND MONUMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our national lands and monuments and explore both our accomplishments and some of our future opportunities.

As you know, the Antiquities Act was passed 110 years ago. Ten years later, in 1916, the National Park System was created. And since then, there have been 151 national monuments cre-

ated, 84 of them by Republican Presidents—the majority of those by Republican Presidents—showing that this act and its impact is truly bipartisan and American in every sense.

I would also like to call your attention to the accomplishments of our current President, Barack Obama, whom historian Douglas Brinkley calls a Theodore Roosevelt for the 21st century, owing to his commitment to preserving our national heritage, protecting our public places, and ensuring that, whether it is of importance because of its value for wilderness, cultural, or historical impact, we are ensuring all Americans have a chance to enjoy and appreciate our heritage.

I also rise today, Mr. Speaker, to suggest a way that the President can continue this legacy and set the stage for the next 100 years.

Castner Range, pictured behind me, in El Paso, Texas, is 7,000 acres in the heart of the Chihuahuan Desert rising into Rocky Mountain peaks that start at the southern end of that national mountain chain and has rare plant and animal species that distinguish it as a place worthy of preservation.

Ending in 1966, Castner Range was used as a bombing range, but in the 50 years since then, it has been preserved in its natural state. This is an incredible opportunity to ensure that we pass on Castner Range and all that it means to us as a country to not just this generation, but the generations that follow.

Castner Range, beyond the rare plant and animal species, has 10,000 years of recorded human history. There are petroglyphs dating back to 8,000 years ago, literally showing the impressions that this land made on the first Americans who were neither U.S. citizens, Mexican citizens, or really had any citizenship at all. That is particularly poignant, given the fact that Castner Range is part of the world's largest binational community.

El Paso, with its sister city, Ciudad Juarez in southern New Mexico, join 3 million people of two countries, two cultures, two traditions, two languages and become one at this point. Furthermore, El Paso, Texas, is 85 percent Mexican American and happens to be one of the poorest communities in our country.

This is a chance for this President to open up public lands to ensure that we have access and participation by everyone in this country and to ensure that our national monument visitors reflect the communities and the growing, changing demographics in this country.

I also think that it is important to know that this community is unified in ensuring that we protect, preserve, and pass on Castner Range to future generations. Twenty-seven thousand El Pasoans have signed letters to the President. Despite its relative poverty, \$1.5 million has been raised by individual donors to complement whatever Federal investment is necessary. The

largest school district has made a commitment to ensure that every fourth grader has access to Castner Range, should it be preserved, that it is part of their curriculum, and that they travel to Castner Range to explore and appreciate its wonder.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, here are some larger themes that the preservation of Castner Range could tie into. It is a cold war relic. It is also a former artillery site. Following the President's recent travel to Laos, which saw more armaments rain down on it than any other part of the world, we have a chance to develop the model of how to turn former conflict sites into places of public use, into examples of peace, and into standards for preservation. That could happen in the United States, where we can set the world standard, and it can happen here at Castner Range.

There are a few national monument ideas that I think make a lot of sense. There is the expansion of the Grand Canyon, Bears Ears, and Gold Butte. And then there is Castner Range. I think the President's attention to these areas and the ability to offer access to more Americans to ensure everyone has a chance to access our national parks and national monuments and to set the standard for preservation and the future of American cities is too good of an opportunity for this President to pass up.

AMERICA'S FINANCIAL OUTLOOK WORSENS WITH FY 2017 CR

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I have given numerous House floor speeches warning of a looming and debilitating American insolvency and bankruptcy.

In order to drive home the dangers, I have cited Greece, where young adult unemployment nears 50 percent, overall unemployment approximates the worst America suffered during the Great Depression, and public pensions have been slashed by almost 50 percent.

I have cited Venezuela, where inflation last year was 275 percent, is estimated at 720 percent this year, and deadly street and food riots are common.

I have cited Puerto Rico's default on \$70 billion in debt, credit rating cut to "junk bond status," abysmal labor participation rate of less than 40 percent, and closure of over 100 schools.

While House Republicans can boast that they helped cut the \$1.3 trillion deficit that we inherited in 2011 to \$439 billion in 2015, that boast now rings hollow. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the fiscal year 2016 deficit is ballooning by \$151 billion, to \$590 billion.

Absent correction, the CBO warns that in 2024, America will embark on an unending string of trillion-dollar-a-year deficits. Absent correction, the

CBO warns that America's debt service cost will increase within a decade by \$464 billion per year, to roughly \$712 billion per year—more than what America spends on national defense. Which begs the question: Where will the money for a \$720 billion a year annual debt service payment come from?

Mr. Speaker, America's financially irresponsible conduct has caused both America's Comptroller General and the Congressional Budget Office to repeatedly warn in writing that America's financial path is "unsustainable." I agree with the Comptroller General and CBO warnings and I am convinced that, absent major changes in the economic understanding and backbone of Washington's elected officials, a debilitating American insolvency and bankruptcy is a certainty within three decades, a probability within two decades, and a dangerous risk over the next 10 years.

All of this brings us to the continuing resolution spending bill that Congress will soon vote on. According to the CBO, this continuing resolution spending bill, plus so-called mandatory spending, increased Federal Government spending by \$150 billion and blows fiscal year 2017 Federal Government spending through the \$4 trillion mark—a new record high amount of spending.

This CR spending bill ignores economic reality and fails to prudently restrain Federal Government spending to reflect America's tax revenue. This CR spending bill reflects Washington and special interest group greed and shortsightedness and continues the worst generational theft in American history by again breaking into our kids' piggy banks and stealing money we don't have and will never pay back, callously letting our children suffer the consequences.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, economic principles don't care if you are a family, a business, or a country. If you borrow more money than you can pay back, you go bankrupt. Americans are rightfully angry at Washington elected officials who are all too willing to sacrifice America's future for today's special interest campaign contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for anyone else, but as for me, Mo BROOKS, from Alabama's Fifth Congressional District, I vote for financial responsibility and prosperity and against a debilitating American bankruptcy, insolvency, and resulting economic depression.

As such, and although this continuing resolution admittedly spends money on lots of good things, I will vote against it because it is financially irresponsible. I will not vote for a debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy of America that will damage so many Americans for so many years to come.

FUND THE ZIKA PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, at 12:30 p.m., I will be convening an emergency press conference from the U.S. Capitol on Zika. This is a bipartisan press conference of Floridians, Democrats, and Republicans who are concerned about their State. Please join us.

We will send out a clarion call to our fellow Members of Congress to help Floridians by passing a clean Zika bill—no riders, no poison pills, just a clean Zika bill. Our Governor, Governor Scott, will visit Congress tomorrow, and I hope he will urge Congress to act.

Life is too precious, and we should not be playing political football with unborn children and whatever else science will reveal to us about Zika. There is so much yet to be discovered, but we do know this: we are gambling with the developing brain of an unborn fetus.

Florida's 24th Congressional District, which I proudly represent, is the epicenter of the Zika epidemic in America. The district's small boutique community was where they discovered the first local mosquito-borne transmission.

A travel advisory has been put in place to warn pregnant women against coming to this American neighborhood. This is the first time in a long time that an American city has received a travel advisory. It is hurting businesses. It has a huge economic impact that is devastating to this robust business district in Miami. Tourism is down, restaurants are on the verge of closing, and the crowded tourist attractions are literally abandoned.

This public health crisis has grown so serious that one of Florida's major newspapers, the Miami Herald, has created a daily tracker to monitor the virus' spread across our State. I spent most of our 7-week recess working to educate residents in my district about how to protect themselves against this terrible and rapidly spreading virus. Whip HOYER joined me on an occasion.

So Miami is the epicenter. It has evolved into an open laboratory where the CDC is working closely with local health officials and county officials. For weeks, a CDC response team has been on the ground in Miami working to control, contain, and defeat the virus and to educate the community on mosquito control.

The CDC is literally using Miami to teach the Nation how to cope with the Zika virus. They have said to me: We have to use every tool in the toolbox, and that requires adequate funding. They have said: We cannot lose this battle; it is too dangerous. Determining what works and what doesn't work requires adequate funding.

It is sexually transmitted, but how long does the virus live in semen? How

long does the virus live in the blood? Should we stop blood donations in affected areas?

The Zika virus has been found in tears and saliva. Research shows that it causes blindness and brain disorders and could cause Alzheimer's in adults. So many questions. So many questions.

We cannot afford to delay much-needed scientific research, but that requires adequate funding. We need resources to help develop a vaccine, to develop medications to stymie the virus. We need resources to find out how long it takes for a pregnant woman to get results from her Zika test. They need to determine how long the Zika virus lives in the body.

The fever, the chills we can deal with, but we can't gamble with the developing brain of an unborn fetus. The bottom line is: the threat of Zika is grave to pregnant women.

There are so many unanswered questions, and it requires funding. We need a clean Zika bill—no poison pills, no riders, just a bill addressing the Zika virus.

Many people who live in Florida are living in fear because there is so much more to be learned about the virus. It is my State now, my beautiful State of Florida. There are 27 of us serving in the House. Many of us have taken votes to help you when your State needed help. I ask you today, my colleagues, to help my State, my district.

And please note, this epidemic has already begun to start in other States. We cannot pretend it does not exist. Please bring a clean bill to the floor.

The people of America are depending on each of us. The unborn children of America are depending on each of us. Let's put our children's future first. Mosquitoes carrying Zika must be dealt with now, and that requires the political will to do the right thing.

NOMINATIONS FOR U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, one of the most meaningful things a Member of Congress does is nominate some of the best and brightest students from our congressional district to serve our Nation's service academies.

U.S. service academy graduates receive a first-rate undergraduate education with options to pursue advanced degrees. They spend a minimum of 5 years serving their country on Active Duty as a military officer and are provided with an education and experience that will provide a world of career opportunities.

The full 4-year scholarship is valued at more than \$350,000, which includes tuition, room and board, medical and dental care, and also a monthly salary. Students learn discipline, moral ethics, and teamwork in a structured environment that fosters leadership and character development.