

West during Ramadan. Its followers heard the call last Sunday in Orlando, last Monday in France, and days later in Belgium—a near miss in what appears to be an ISIL-directed attack planning. We need to better address this threat of lone-wolf terrorists. That means providing law enforcement with the tools and the certainty necessary to do so. That is what the lone-wolf provision will provide. It is an idea that has passed Congress before. Now we can enact it into law on an enduring basis as a part of the McCain amendment. Unfortunately, threats from lone-wolf attacks are not going away. The legal authority to help prevent them should not go away, either.

Smart, targeted counterterrorism ideas like these were Republican priorities well before the terrorist attack in Orlando. They continue to be at the forefront of our efforts now. We also remain focused on doing what we can to help this President and the next one take down ISIL.

These kinds of ideas should be all of our priorities moving forward—for Republicans, for Democrats, and for the President of the United States.

We can spend our time redacting and reacting, or we can acknowledge the threats before us and work to prevent more ISIL-fueled atrocities.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The Democratic leader is recognized.

ISIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a 1-page document prepared by our ranking member on the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs at the conclusion of my statement.

Mr. President, my friend the Republican leader talks about President Obama not doing enough to fight ISIL. What we see in the RECORD is the document prepared by Senator CARPER that outlines the progress that has been made. Is it enough? Of course not, but it is pretty significant in our fight against ISIS or ISIL, whatever you want to call them.

I don't know what the Republican leader wants. Does he want another invasion of Iraq, ground troops? Does he want us to invade Syria? Those are the two countries he named. Our last invasion of Iraq didn't work out too well. We have had about 500,000 Iraqis killed. They are dead now as a result of that invasion.

The number in Syria is reaching about 300,000. Millions of them have been displaced because of that last invasion of Iraq. The whole Middle East is destabilized. Is that what the Republican leader wants? Does he want another invasion? Which country? Both of them? How many troops—100,000,

150,000? What does he want? Be more specific. What does he want done that isn't being done?

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

UPDATE ON PROGRESS MADE AGAINST ISIS

Since the height of ISIS's power, U.S. and coalition forces have recaptured 47 percent of the land ISIS once held in Iraq.

ISIS has also lost 20 percent of the land it once held in Syria.

Ramadi and Tikrit were key victories for the U.S. backed Iraqi forces.

Last Friday, Iraqi forces captured the city center of Fallujah and are now working to clear out the last few pockets of resistance in that key Anbar town.

As we speak, Kurdish, Iraqi and Syrian Democratic forces—backed by U.S. special forces—are making preparations to retake ISIS's key strongholds in Mosul and Raqqa. We've killed 25,000 ISIS fighters and more than 120 key ISIS leaders.

We've cut ISIS funds by up to one-third.

We've drastically slowed the flow of foreign recruits from a high of about 2,000 a month in 2014 to 200 a month today.

The same goes for those young Americans who have sought to travel to join ISIS abroad. One year ago, about 10 Americans per month were leaving to join ISIS. Now that number is about one a month.

At home, the FBI is cracking down on recruits as well. Over the past two years, the FBI has arrested 88 individuals on ISIS related charges.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am encouraged by the dialogue on gun safety that is taking place in the Senate now. Democrats and Republicans are working together to find solutions to protect Americans from gun violence. The obvious first step is to keep guns and explosives out of the hands of suspected terrorists and criminals. That is why it is imperative that the Senate call up legislation to get a vote.

The amendment from the senior Senator from Maine has bipartisan support and, at the very least, is a step in the right direction. The State of Maine has a reputation for bipartisanship. I can remember when President Obama was first elected, when we did the American Recovery Act—the stimulus. We had 57 or 58 Democratic Senators. I needed help in order to get that passed. Where did I look first? The State of Maine, Senator COLLINS and Senator Snowe. They always came through. The reason we were able to pass the Recovery Act is because of the State of Maine's senatorial representation.

So it should be no surprise to anyone that the senior Senator from Maine is working on a bipartisan basis, and while her legislation at this stage, in my mind, is not perfect, it is a step in the right direction.

I am concerned with the Collins amendment for a number of reasons, and the Justice Department also has concerns. They are worried about provisions within the legislation. But as we speak, bipartisan discussions continue to resolve these matters.

But there is no question that the Senate should vote on legislation that

keeps guns away from suspected terrorists. So I appreciate the good work of Senator COLLINS.

Of course, it wouldn't be fair to talk about the State of Maine without talking about ANGUS KING—what a terrific Senator. The State of Maine should be so proud of this guy, as I know they are, based on his record as having been elected as Governor and other things in the State of Maine.

I know the National Rifle Association is whipping its followers into a frenzy about this legislation—the Collins bipartisan legislation. They are going crazy about it. That is disappointing but not surprising.

Almost every American agrees that suspected terrorists should not be able to purchase firearms and explosives. The Republican leader should ignore the desperate pleas from the NRA and bring Senator COLLINS' amendment to the floor for a vote.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on another subject, when we have voted on the Collins amendment, we must turn our attention to another critically important matter—addressing the Zika public health crisis.

The American people have been waiting since February for Republicans to respond in regard to this serious, serious threat from Zika caused by mosquito bites. For centuries, mosquitoes have been wreaking havoc on people, but never, ever in the past have there been any reports of mosquitoes carrying a virus or anything else that causes birth defects.

The American people have been waiting since February for Republicans to respond to the threat from Zika. It has been four months to the day since President Obama sent an emergency appropriations request to Congress for \$1.9 billion to fight Zika, and \$1.9 billion was the specific figure requested by researchers, public health experts, and doctors. There is even more needed now that 120 days have passed and have exposed even more dangers from Zika.

While this Republican Congress has done nothing to provide the necessary funding, the threat from Zika continues to grow larger every day.

According to the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how Zika is affecting the United States—listen to these numbers because they are stunning, and in a few days they will be changed even more. Nearly 2,200 Americans have been affected by the Zika virus, and 423 pregnant women have tested positive for the virus. Tragically, six pregnancies in Zika-infected women have already resulted in severe birth defects. Of these 423 pregnant women, how many more women are going to have babies born with these extreme challenges? It is awful what this virus does to a lot of babies.

In the past we have responded to public health emergencies with the urgency they deserve. When the Nation

faced the Ebola crisis, we responded. When the avian flu crisis hit, we responded quickly with emergency funding. We have done the same with tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and fires, but the Republicans aren't doing that. I don't know; I don't understand this. It is an emergency. Zika is an emergency. It is devastating. Republicans should treat it as such and work with Democrats to fully respond to this. They should do it now; they should have done it months ago.

It is stunning and sad that instead of responding responsibly to this Nation's emergency in a bipartisan way, the Republicans have retreated behind closed doors and are negotiating Zika funding among themselves. There is a conference going on, but nothing is happening. The Republicans over in the House are playing around with something they are going to send us. We know; we have been there. It is going to come here. The Republicans in the House will then decide to go home, and the Democrats will have to go with them, and they will be gone. So we will be jammed sometime next week, and the Republican leader will say: Listen, we have to do this. The House is gone. We can't change anything. Well, that is wrong. They should not turn this general public health emergency into a partisan game, syphoning money from Ebola or cutting the Affordable Care Act as we heard they are doing over in the House. That is a dangerous break from our commitment to address emergencies we are funding.

We should respond to this crisis and respond now. We know what we need to send the President—at least \$1.9 billion—and it is an emergency. It is no different, as I have said, than a flood or a fire or those other emergencies I mentioned. For every moment the Republicans delay in responding to the Zika virus, we endanger more Americans.

Mr. President, there are a number of people on the floor. I would ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2578, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Shelby/Mikulski amendment No. 4685, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for McCain) amendment No. 4787 (to amendment No. 4685), to amend section 2709 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that the Government may obtain a specified set of electronic communication transactional records under that section, and to make permanent the authority for individual terrorists to be treated as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

McConnell motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations for a period of 14 days.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until the cloture vote will be equally divided between the managers or their designees. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak as in morning business.

ZIKA VIRUS

Mr. President, the statement just made by the Senate Democratic leader on the Zika challenge to the United States is well documented. What is well documented is that the President of the United States came to Congress 4 months ago and said: We are facing a public health threat. Do something.

For 4 months the Republican-led Congress has done nothing. Meanwhile, the mosquitoes carrying this deadly virus are on the march.

This is a report from the New York Times from last week which I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD in its entirety.

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

[From the New York Times, June 17, 2016]

U.S. OFFICIALS ARE SURPRISED BY ZIKA RATE IN PUERTO RICO

(By Catherine Saint Louis)

Roughly 1 percent of recent blood donors in Puerto Rico showed signs of active infection with the Zika virus, suggesting that a substantial portion of the island's population will become infected, federal health officials reported on Friday.

From April 3 to June 11, testing of 12,700 donations at blood centers in Puerto Rico identified 68 infected donors, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Over all, about 0.5 percent of donors had active Zika infections, but the prevalence rose to 1.1 percent in the week ending June 11. The virus, carried by the yellow fever mosquito, has been linked to birth defects in infants and neurological problems in adults.

"There are a lot more Zika-positive people than we would anticipate this early" in the outbreak, said Phillip Williamson, an author of the C.D.C. report and the vice president of operations at Creative Testing Solutions, a blood-donor testing laboratory.

Based on prior experience, Dr. Williamson said he would not have expected so many Zika-infected donors until late June or at early July.

The C.D.C. has estimated that as many as a quarter of the island's 3.5 million people may become infected with the Zika virus this year.

"It's possible that thousands of pregnant women in Puerto Rico could be infected," Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, the agency's director, told Reuters on Friday, leading to "dozens or hundreds of infants being born with microcephaly in the coming year."

Zika-contaminated donations are removed from the blood supply. In the continental

United States, where local transmission of the virus has yet to be reported, most blood banks are not yet using the experimental screening test used in Puerto Rico, which was made by Roche Diagnostics.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this article is entitled, "U.S. Officials Are Surprised by Zika Rate in Puerto Rico."

It goes on: "Roughly 1 percent of recent blood donors in Puerto Rico showed signs of active infection with the Zika virus, suggesting that a substantial portion of the island's population will become infected, federal health officials reported on Friday."

They go on to cite the statistics that have been analyzed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and here is what they concluded:

Based on prior experience, Dr. Williamson [of the CDC] said he would not have expected so many Zika-infected donors until late June or early July.

The CDC has estimated that as many as a quarter of the island's 3.5 million people may become infected with the Zika virus this year.

"It's possible that thousands of pregnant women in Puerto Rico could be infected," Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, [the CDC's] director, told Reuters . . . leading to "dozens or hundreds of infants being born with microcephaly in the coming year."

What is the Republican majority waiting for in the U.S. Senate? What is the Republican majority waiting for in the U.S. House of Representatives?

Don't they believe this is a serious public health threat? If they don't, they are ignoring the obvious—evidence given to us by the leading public health defense agency in the United States of America, if not the world. Over and over again, they tell us this is a deadly threat. While the infection rates increase and the infections among pregnant women increase and the number of these infants who are afflicted by serious birth defects increase, the Republicans in the House and Senate are too busy focusing on Donald Trump to pay attention to this public health crisis. It is about time they accepted the reality, and the reality is they were elected to lead, they were elected to protect, they were elected to serve, and when it comes to the Zika virus, they are doing none of this. They are standing back, twisted in knots, trying to figure out how to take money away from other public health challenges to deal with this, and 4 months have passed. These mosquitoes are spreading this infection across Puerto Rico, and soon we will know more in the United States.

Senator REID suggested there were 2,000 Americans with the Zika virus infection; 400—if I recall his numbers correctly—pregnant women, and there is already evidence of babies here being born afflicted because of this infection. What is the Republican majority waiting for?

FIGHTING TERRORISM

Mr. President, the Senate Republican leader came to the floor earlier this morning to speak to us about ISIL and