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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, we come to You, the source of our hope and strength. We have recently celebrated America's independence, but each new day seems to bring reminders of how our Nation and world are buffeted by winds of instability and danger. We continue to be reminded that freedom is not free.

As our lawmakers seek to pay the price for freedom in unstable times, may they not forget that You are not intimidated by any of the divisive and evil forces we face. May our Senators remember that their best blessings come from You, the One who has been our help in ages past and remains our hope for years to come. Give them the wisdom to find creative solutions to the many problems we face, trusting You to direct their steps.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3110

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3110) to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week's passage of responsible, bipartisan legislation on Puerto Rico shows what is possible when we keep our focus on serious solutions. That is where we should keep our focus again during the coming work period.

We knew that doing nothing was not an option on Puerto Rico. So Senators of both parties worked to pass responsible legislation to help the Puerto Rican people and prevent a taxpayer bailout.

We also knew that doing nothing was not an option on Zika, yet Democrats blocked over a billion dollars in new funding for women's health and pregnant mothers, as well as record funding levels for veterans. As I have said before, the Senate will revisit this important issue over the current work period.

We will give Democrats another opportunity to end their filibuster of funding that is critical to controlling Zika and supporting our veterans. We will also address other important issues.

Senators will have the opportunity to support proposals designed to help

keep Americans safer in their communities, to help strengthen our military, and to help prevent families from unnecessarily paying more for the food they purchase.

Let me remind colleagues of the four bills on which I filed cloture just before the Fourth of July State work period: the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act, Kate's Law, the biotechnology labeling compromise, and the Defense appropriations bill. I will have more to say about each of those measures in just a moment.

First, we will consider Senator TOOMEY's Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act and, then, Kate's Law from Senator CRUZ. Senator TOOMEY's Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act aims to deter extreme and unfair so-called sanctuary city policies in the first place. Senator CRUZ's Kate's Law will help protect the public even when cities insist on maintaining these dangerous policies.

Senator TOOMEY's bill would support jurisdictions that cooperate with Federal law enforcement officials and redirects funds to them from those places that refuse to do so. It would also support law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every single day, protecting them from having to live in constant fear of being sued for simply doing their job.

It is no wonder that this bill has such broad support from the law enforcement community, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National Association of Police Organizations. Senator TOOMEY's bill, in conjunction with Senator CRUZ's bill, aims to prevent more families from experiencing the heartache that Kate Steinle's family has been forced to endure.

It has been a year since Kate was tragically murdered in San Francisco by a convicted felon who had been deported five times. What makes this tragedy even more heartbreaking is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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that it could have been prevented, but San Francisco had an extreme so-called sanctuary city policy of not complying with Federal immigration laws—apparently, even when it came to detaining dangerous criminals residing in our country illegally.

In this case, the city's irresponsible policy helped lead to a young woman senselessly losing her life at the hands of a felon who should have never been on the streets to begin with. Senator CRUZ's bill is about getting dangerous criminals off our streets and keeping our communities safer. It will prevent individuals who have been convicted of coming here illegally and who have been convicted of committing serious criminal offenses from harming more innocent victims such as Kate Steinle.

We are a nation of immigrants. We all appreciate the many contributions that immigrants have made to our country over the years. Americans from both parties know it would be incredibly dishonest to pretend this bill is aimed at law-abiding citizens who enrich our country, rather than those at whom it is really aimed—those who come to this country illegally and have criminal convictions. Americans from both parties also understand that extreme sanctuary city policies can inflict incredible pain on innocent victims and their families.

President Obama's own Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has called sanctuary city policies not acceptable and counterproductive to public safety. We took up similar measures last year, and it was unfortunate to see them blocked. Let's work together now to make the right choice and advance these measures to prevent more tragedies like Kate's and support local law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line for us every day.

After the Senate considers these bills, we will move to a bipartisan compromise recently announced by the top Republican and the top Democrat on the Agriculture Committee. This bill would protect middle-class families from unnecessary and unfair higher food prices that could result from a patchwork of State food labeling laws, and it would ensure access to more information about the food they purchase, as well.

While the bill before us may not be perfect, it is the product of diligent work from both sides, which, in fact, worked very hard to reach an agreement. It is a commonsense measure based on science, which has not shown health, safety, or nutritional risks associated with bioengineered products.

Senator ROBERTS, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, said this bipartisan bill recognizes the 30-plus years of proven safety of biotechnology while ensuring consumer access to more information about their food. The ranking member of the Agriculture Committee, a Democrat, calls it "a win for consumers and families." With cooperation from across the aisle, we will pass it.

I also filed cloture to begin debate on the fiscal year 2017 Defense appropriations bill, which funds the training, equipping, and readiness of our Armed Forces. This bill provides the men and women who protect us with the resources they need to execute their missions, and it provides our military with the tools it needs to prepare and modernize the force, which is critical at a time of numerous threats to our Nation.

Senators from both sides have already passed a bill to authorize funds for national defense priorities. Now it is time for Senators for both sides to pass this bill that will actually appropriate those funds.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am sure the American public recognizes that we are returning from another vacation—a break, as they are called—without a serious proposal to address Zika.

Zika is a threat. It is a scourge. In less than 10 days, the Senate will adjourn for its longest break in many decades. Sadly, though, Republicans are no closer to getting serious about Zika. The Senate will vote again on their cynical conference report, which I will describe in some detail in a minute. It is full of partisan provisions designed to inject politics into a public health emergency.

This bad legislation will never pass and will never get a Presidential signature. We should be working for a bipartisan solution, but my friend the Republican leader said we are going to vote on this again. Vote on this again—that is too bad.

It is not a surprise that the party of Donald Trump and MITCH MCCONNELL refuses to responsibly address the threat posed by Zika. It is a virus like we have never seen before. Mosquitoes have caused problems for many, many generations but never, ever, birth defects.

Democrats have spent more than 4 months sounding the alarm on Zika and have called on Republicans to join us to fund a responsible response to this threat. It was looming, and now it is here. But Republicans have refused to make Zika a priority.

It hasn't always been this way. In the not-too-distant past, Republicans worked with us on crises and disasters. The last three public health emergencies—Ebola, H1N1 flu, avian flu—had much higher pricetags, yet responses to each passed Congress in a very short period of time.

It has been 130 days since President Obama requested \$1.9 billion for public health officials to protect the American people against Zika. This isn't some figure he came up with out of the

air. He was told this by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and other public health officials.

Republicans have simply ignored this emergency. It is an emergency. So why is the party of Trump and MCCONNELL treating Zika differently than they treated every other modern public health emergency?

Well, maybe it could be that it is uniquely devastating on women. I would hate to think this is the case, but you can't ignore the facts when women face the greatest risk—terrible risks. Everyone now knows these mosquitoes are ravaging thousands and thousands of people, and tens of thousands of women have this virus. We don't yet know how many will give birth to these deformed babies.

Suddenly, Republican men suddenly feel they know best about women's health. This isn't new. They have always done that. You see on TV that the people who are the most pro-life are men, not women.

Every day new reports emerge of Americans being affected with Zika. Right now we know at least of about 550 women who have this infection. It has been proven in labs. As I have indicated, millions more are threatened, and women in States with large Latina populations are at the greatest risk.

Zika has been linked to many health problems but notably a terrible birth defect called microcephaly, which happens when an expectant mother contracts Zika. Already, seven babies in the United States have been born with birth defects caused by Zika. Most of them haven't survived.

We have all seen the images of these babies with their small skulls, most of them caved in. It is heartbreaking, but we should do something to stop it.

Still, the Republican leader is wasting time with failed votes on really unserious legislation. This sort of reckless partisanship—no matter the cost to women and families—is exactly the sort of behavior that led to the rise of Donald Trump, the sort of legislation you would expect from Trump and MCCONNELL's new Republican Party.

To get the votes of the loudest, most bizarre members of the tea party, Republicans are pushing one of the most irresponsible pieces of legislation we have ever seen in Congress, ever. Not surprisingly, Republicans returned to their obsession with defunding Planned Parenthood. This isn't new. This is the old playbook: Let's defund Planned Parenthood; let's go out and get some phony pictures of what they are doing—which have all been proven to be false. But let's do something to go after Planned Parenthood—led by, of course, men, with rare exception.

The Republican bill would restrict funding for Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics. These are the very places that provide birth control to women in Zika-affected areas. Planned Parenthood has provided many women a place to go to get