

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

their health care. This is beyond hypocrisy. Republicans are expecting women to magically stop the spread of Zika and prevent their babies from developing birth defects, all while denying them access to family planning services.

But Republicans don't stop there. Their bill would also hurt veterans by slashing the Senate's level of funding to the VA by \$500 billion. What was that money to be used for? Processing claims of veterans. They wiped that out. It would roll back environmental protections, and the clincher, as we all know, is they would allow the Confederate flag to fly over cemeteries. These provisions are as unacceptable as they are partisan. That is why Senate Democrats rejected the outrageous Republican bill and will do so again.

The Zika threat is growing, but that hasn't changed the Republicans' vacation plans. They need time to unify around Donald Trump in Cleveland but no time for American women. For today's Trump and McConnell Republicans, a public health crisis that is disproportionately dangerous to women isn't worth serious, bipartisan action. Add to that fact that Zika is affecting women by the tens of thousands in Central and South America and the picture becomes even clearer: The anti-immigrant party of Trump and McConnell would rather be on vacation than lift a finger to help.

The National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control are warning that vaccine research and other efforts to protect Americans from Zika is likely to stop without immediate action from Congress.

A poll released last week by the Kaiser Foundation found 72 percent of Americans want the government to spend more to fight Zika—not less, more. We need to act, and we need to act now.

It is obvious that picking a fight over women's health is more important to Republicans than a bipartisan response to stop the spread of this dreaded virus. Democrats have called on Republicans to work with us to get something done. A 7-week vacation should be delayed. There is no excuse for inaction and partisanship. We cannot afford to waste another day, a week, another month—we have already wasted 4 months—for Republicans to help stop the spread of this emergency. Let us get to work and do it now.

IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Finally, on another subject, Mr. President, Senate Republicans today will promote Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric with action. This afternoon, the Senate will vote to consider a pair of bills proposed by the junior Senators from Pennsylvania and Texas. These bills follow Trump's lead in demonizing and criminalizing immigrant Latino families.

Senator TOOMEY's bill will undermine the ability of local law enforcement to

police their own communities and to ensure public safety. It would deny millions of dollars of critical community and economic development funding to cities and States that refuse to target immigrant families. Senator TOOMEY's legislation would simply create more problems. It wouldn't solve anything. Not surprisingly, it is opposed by mayors, domestic violence groups, Latino and civil rights groups, and labor organizations.

Senator CRUZ's bill is no better. It would enact unnecessary mandatory minimum sentences and would cost billions and billions of new dollars, increasing the prison population and siphoning funding from State and local law enforcement. Worst of all, this sort of partisan, piecemeal approach undermines bipartisan efforts to enact badly needed reforms in our criminal justice system.

One desk over from me is DICK DURBIN, the assistant Democratic leader. He has worked for years on doing something about the criminal justice system. He has been joined by a bipartisan group of people to get something done, but, again, the Republican leader is too interested in doing things that mean nothing than doing something that means something.

By pursuing legislation targeting so-called sanctuary cities, Republicans are legislating Donald Trump's vision that immigrants and Latinos are criminals and threats to the public. Republicans want red meat going into the convention and desperately want to pivot from the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our nation and the epidemic of Zika, but Americans deserve a real solution to our broken immigration system, not political games and dog-whistle politics.

If Senator MCCONNELL wants to bring this legislation forward, we are going to take a serious look at it. Maybe getting on the bill might be the right thing to do. If we get on that, and the Republican leader said he wants a robust amendment process, well, we will be happy to give him one. We will have a number of amendments on guns, we will have a number of amendments on Zika, and we will do something about comprehensive immigration reform. So we are going to take a look at that. We may just get on that bill and find out if we are going to have this robust amendment process, but let's address comprehensive immigration reform, guns, Zika, and other issues. We are happy to do that. This may be an opportunity for us to move forward on those issues.

Will the Chair announce what the Senate is going to do the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

STOP DANGEROUS SANCTUARY CITIES ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3100, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 531, S. 3100, a bill to ensure that State and local law enforcement may cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I see my colleagues from Kansas and Michigan on the floor, and I know they are here to speak on the GMO issue. I will make a brief statement and cut short what I planned on saying so they can take the floor on this important and pending issue.

The Senate Republican leader came to the floor this morning and congratulated the Senate on the fact we passed, on a bipartisan basis, the Puerto Rico legislation necessary to deal with the financial disaster they face. We did that last week, truly in a bipartisan way. The Republican leader said this morning we need to keep our focus on serious issues, but then he comes to us with four bills that he requests we take up during the abbreviated session we have this week and next week, and among those four bills are two he acknowledges are clearly only introduced for the political impact, for the message, they might deliver.

One bill that is being promoted by the junior Senator from Pennsylvania is a bill relating to sanctuary cities. This measure was largely considered and voted on only 8 months ago and defeated in the Senate. Why are we bringing it back today? Well, there has been some candor on the Republican side. The Senator who is offering this measure is up for reelection. He believes this is an important "message amendment" that he needs to take back to his home State of Pennsylvania, and he wants to make sure the Senate takes up this measure before the Republican convention, which starts up in a couple weeks. This is a political tactic that is sadly going to eat up the time of the Senate with the same ultimate result. Senator TOOMEY's sanctuary bill will not pass, but it gives him something to talk about when he goes home and perhaps something to give a speech about at the Republican convention.

Going back to the Senate Republican leader's suggestion that we ought to be focusing in a bipartisan way on serious issues, the first suggestion out of the box on a message amendment is clearly being done for political purposes only. The second measure is one that is brought to the floor at the request of Senator TED CRUZ, the junior Senator from Texas. This will bring us back to some debate over immigration, again,