

other essential personnel who are keeping our society going during an unprecedented crisis at home—and I thank the diplomats and development professionals around the world that are working to keep us safe. We must now honor their dedication and sacrifice by committing the resources to them that they will need to stop the spread of this virus and re-create an environment that will enable our communities to thrive.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
DURING COVID-19

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, as the world faces the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. leadership in the global response is essential. Thank you to my colleague from California, Congressman BERA, and my colleague from Florida, Congressman YOHO, for leading a Congressional special order so that Members who represent communities across America can reiterate this point clearly.

I serve on the Asia Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which Representatives BERA and YOHO lead as Chairman and Ranking Member. Our Subcommittee held our first hearing on the coronavirus outbreak in China in early February and our second one later that month. What we heard during these hearings from public health experts and administration officials reaffirmed something we already knew: The United States needed to demonstrate leadership in the international response in order to keep Americans safe.

Since these hearings, this horrible disease has ravaged families and communities in the United States and around the world, including in Central Virginia. The death toll, as well as the impact on our way of life, has been heart-breaking. Every day, I speak with Central Virginians who are experiencing this pain. As we do everything we can to halt the spread and impact of the virus in our local communities and across our nation, we must also recognize that U.S. leadership in the global fight against coronavirus is an essential part of ending the suffering at home.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that infectious diseases know no borders. An outbreak in a remote village can spread to major cities across all populated continents on earth in less than 36 hours. Even once we have more thorough testing and U.S. towns begin to see dropping numbers of cases, the disease could easily return. No matter how successful we are in fighting the threat of COVID-19 at home, we will not end the suffering and fear created by the virus unless we also combat it around the world.

This is exactly why global health experts, as well as foreign policy and military leaders, are speaking out—calling on U.S. government officials to lead by example and demonstrate leadership on the global stage. If our nation cedes international leadership, we are demoting our international standing, creating a void that our adversaries will fill and exploit, and most critically, we are risking the safety and livelihoods of Americans.

In addition, the pandemic is an incredibly painful reminder that, at the end of the day, U.S. national security comes down to resilience at home. As we face international threats, including infectious disease, we are only as strong and prepared as our most vulnerable neighbors and our most susceptible systems. The coronavirus pandemic highlights that national security is much more than what typically comes to mind—it includes our medical supply chains, the safety of American workers, and so much more. It includes emerging, transnational threats such as climate change and the COVID-19 virus—a disease that at any moment now is expected to cause a death toll surpassing the number of Americans who died in nearly a decade of fighting in Vietnam. Going forward, we must be prepared for the full range of risks to American security. And to do this, we must think of national security in a more comprehensive and integrated fashion, recognizing it is rooted in our strength at home and that the United States must lead on the global stage to provide the sense of security that so many Americans lack as they face disease and job loss.

As we strengthen and implement our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future threats, we must recognize that U.S. global leadership is essential to protecting the health, security, and economic interests of all Americans. We cannot step back from this challenge; we must step up.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, the United States, along with the rest of the world, currently finds itself in the midst of a global emergency of epic proportions. Never in the modern era has every nation on Earth been brought to their knees so quickly by a pandemic that threatens our security, our economy, and the social fabric of our lives.

The United States, and the rest of the world, were woefully unprepared for the arrival of COVID-19. Our underestimation of infectious diseases goes back multiple administrations, when we had ample opportunity to secure our essential supply chains, ensure stockpiles of PPE, and dedicate the necessary resources to research and study emerging diseases.

If there is one bright side of our current crisis, it is that our nation will never again take for granted our health security. President George W. Bush and industry leaders like Bill Gates forewarned us that our country would need to take proactive measures to prepare for the next pandemic. We clearly failed in heeding their warnings. COVID-19 will not be the last health crisis we face, and we must use the lessons we have learned to aggressively build up our capacity to prevent future pandemics.

As a veterinarian, it's no secret that I have been vocal on the threat of zoonotic diseases and the dangers of animal to human transmission. Just recently, I introduced the Advancing Emergency Preparedness Through One Health Act of 2019, which would improve public health preparedness by helping federal

agencies implement a "One Health" approach, recognizing that the health of people is linked to the health of animals and the environment. Multiple studies by the CDC have found that 6 out of 10 infectious diseases were seen in animals before humans, including the virus we face now. Coordination between government agencies is essential in addressing and eliminating zoonotic outbreaks, which is why the One Health model would improve synchronization between veterinarians and doctors by requiring the Department of Homeland Security and United States Department of Agriculture to work together.

Historically, the United States has applied its health expertise to the global stage as well, in the form of direct support and contributions to multilateral health organizations. The U.S. has historically been one of the largest donors to organizations like the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), which utilizes market forces and private sector partnerships to drive down medical costs and develop and deliver new and underused vaccines to developing nations. Similarly, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), established by President George W. Bush in 2003, has saved millions worldwide by providing essential resources for prevention, treatment, and vaccine research. It is through smart investments like these that the United States demonstrates leadership on global health security.

But we can, and must, do more. As we have seen, our current efforts were not enough to stop the spread of coronavirus from infecting millions and killing hundreds of thousands. We must prepare for the next pandemic by partnering with initiatives like the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), an alliance aimed at coordinating the development of new vaccines to prevent and contain new infectious disease epidemics. CEPI works directly with industry, universities, and private research and development organizations to leverage a dedicated approach to advancing vaccine research. Currently, CEPI has reoriented its entire organizational structure to address COVID-19 and is advancing eight vaccine candidates at a rapid pace.

However, despite multiple multimillion-dollar contributions from Norway, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the Gates Foundation, the United States has yet to donate a cent. CEPI represents the next frontier in health security preparedness, and the United States must take the initiative if we are to continue leading international efforts on health security.

If we abdicate our place as a leader in global health, there is another country eager to take the reins. China has not been subtle in asserting itself on global health issues, and often not for the benefit of other nations. China's recent coronavirus debacle should be evidence enough that their communist regime cannot be trusted to lead with accountability, transparency, or pragmatism, traits that are essential when fighting widespread disease.

As for how China would fare as a global health leader, look no further than the disastrous initial response by the WHO to coronavirus, one that was clearly influenced by Beijing. Information was slow-walked, warnings from nations like Taiwan were ignored at crucial turning points, and cooperation with outside health experts was spurned until it was too late. And it has resulted in the largest

public health disaster the world has seen in over a century.

The United States and the rest of the world cannot afford to relinquish authority over global health security, or to isolate ourselves from protecting the wellbeing of other nations. We must continue to think aggressively and plan for the long term while supporting international public-private partnerships like GAVI and CEPI. Let this be a watershed moment for our nation as a mistake to never repeat. With countless human lives and livelihoods at stake, the time for gambling with global health security is done.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, in my travels around the world as a Member of Congress one thing has become abundantly clear. Advancing prosperity and stability internationally is not just a moral imperative, it's a national imperative—because instability anywhere is a threat to stability everywhere.

Human rights violations, terrorism, and infectious diseases don't stop at the border. We have seen that tragic reality reinforced through genocide, international terrorism, and global pandemics.

So what is the lesson as we fight COVID-19?

No matter how successful we are in combatting this pandemic here at home, we will never fully stop it unless we also combat it around the world. After all, we saw COVID-19 jump from Wuhan, to Westminster, to West Palm, in a matter of weeks. Outbreaks in remote villages don't stay in remote villages. According to the CDC, 70 percent of the world remains underprepared to prevent, detect, and respond to any public health emergency.

So while there is still so much more we need to do domestically to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the American public, part of that effort needs to focus on U.S. global leadership to fight this disease and future pandemics.

America remains the world's most critical defender of human rights and prosperity around the globe. And that role is needed now more than ever.

Before this pandemic, millions were already fleeing war and persecution in countries around the world, including the devastating impacts in Syria. And COVID-19 is now a force multiplier, increasing the risk of violence, displacement, hunger, and suffering.

It is crucial that we support the State Department, USAID, the World Health Organization, and others on the frontlines responding to this pandemic and advancing American interests around the world every day.

More emergency funding is needed for the International Affairs Budget to support the global response to combat this pandemic.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of Congress taking immediate action to help people and countries around the globe to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic. I wish to thank my colleagues Dr. BERA and Dr. YOHO for organizing this important Special Order. The need around the world to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic is immense. I and other Members are joining the call for Congress to provide twelve billion dollars for international efforts to fight the virus, with a specific focus on helping African countries and multilateral institutions who are on the front lines of this crisis. This is a small fraction of what we are spending at home, but it can make a huge difference in stopping the virus around the world.

Right now, America is hurting from COVID-19. Too many families are dealing with the suffering and death of loved ones from the virus. Many more are struggling to cope with an economic crisis unlike any we've seen in our lifetimes. And while this suffering is wide and deep, it's also deeply unequal. It's true that Coronavirus itself doesn't discriminate on who it infects. But the inequality that has built up in our health care system and our economy means that Black and Brown people are more likely to get sick, and more likely to get sub-standard care. And people already living on the edge of poverty are bearing the worst of the economic crisis, unable to telecommute, unable to make rent, and last in line to get help.

When so many are suffering at home, it's fair that some people might ask, "why should Congress be looking to help other countries? Why shouldn't we take care of our own first?"

Madam Speaker, that is a false choice. The bottom line is that we cannot defeat COVID unless the whole world works together. There are too many countries that simply lack the resources to tackle the pandemic on their own. There is a practical reason why we need to help these countries—because if we don't, we run the risk that both this virus and the economic shock will fester, creating more risks for us here at home. But more importantly, we need to help because of the moral imperative, the fact that an America that seeks to be just and moral needs to play a leading role in making sure that every country can weather this crisis. America serves both our interests and our values when we act in service of our common humanity. Regardless of what disagreements we might have with particular governments, it is our mission to make sure that people everywhere have basic public health protections, and a lifeline to whether the economic impact of this crisis.

The good news is, we have a road map for how this is done. When in the past, the world has faced pandemic challenges, America has taken action to contribute to the global effort. When HIV and AIDS threatened Africa with widespread suffering and demographic disaster, I and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in Congress worked with the Bush Administration to respond. I am proud to have helped author the legislation

creating both PEPFAR and the Global Fund, which have helped to turn the tide on the crisis, providing extensive bilateral and multilateral investment in strengthening health systems and expanding treatment, as well as funding the search for a vaccine. When Ebola threatened to overwhelm West Africa, the United States mobilized an array of resources to respond. In these past crises, America has sought to work collaboratively with the global community. There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all solution, and it's important to support the global institutions, such as the World Health Organization and United Nations, that help coordinate our international response. These organizations don't just act in ways that protect us all, they also help advance our shared humanitarian values. They deserve our full moral and financial support.

Madam Speaker, the Coronavirus doesn't stop at the border, nor does its economic and moral impact. I urge my colleagues to resist the urge to score political points by pulling back from shared international efforts and join us here in our efforts to help mend the single garment of our destiny. I urge my colleagues to support a robust international investment in fighting COVID-19 and restoring the global economy so that it works for all people, here at home and around the world.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise in the midst of a global pandemic to emphasize importance and need of America's global leadership to combat COVID-19. I have seen firsthand in my district in Queens, NY—the epicenter of the epicenter—that those who were the most vulnerable before this crisis, such as individuals who were experiencing homelessness or housing instability, economic instability, or food insecure—are also the most likely to be affected by this pandemic.

There is a temptation, in this moment of extreme personal suffering, to buy into the dichotomy that we can either help Americans or we can help our allies. This is a false choice. By only focusing on "flattening the curve" in America, we not only risk the lives of allies and partners in other countries, but we risk a resurgence of cases as the global economy re-opens.

As a Member of the House State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I believe it is more critical than ever to pass a robust international affairs budget that supports the healthcare systems of developing countries. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene programs, for example, are more critical than ever. Vigorously washing our hands has become our new normal in the U.S., but that requires access to a safe, reliable water supply, which is not available in many communities around the world.

Americans leadership is not only needed to stop the physical spread of the virus, but also to deal with its serious, secondary consequences. For instance, crises and emergencies exacerbate cases of domestic violence; we have already seen this evidence