

served and law enforcement gets the support needed to conduct their investigation.

It is not enough to simply offer help after these heinous attacks take place. Congress must do more to prevent these acts of terrorism altogether. There are things we can do, and some of them are really easy. Right now, as we speak, there is a loophole in our law that allows potential FBI terror suspects to legally purchase guns and explosives. Stop and think about that for just a moment. A person with suspected ties to terrorism can walk into a store now and buy all of the explosives, all the guns, and all the ammunition they want.

In Nevada, a man who has been so charitable has set up a camp for children every summer. It costs him lots of money. It is in a beautiful part of the mountain area right outside of Las Vegas. We have, within 10 minutes of Las Vegas, a 12,000-foot mountain. At the foot of those mountains, he has a beautiful camp.

Here is what they are doing now. You can go to a gun store in Las Vegas, and you can buy explosives. They put them up in the trees. We don't have that many trees in Nevada. They will put explosives up in a tree, and they shoot at it, and it blows up. It blows up the tree and anything around it. That is for sport.

Anyone can walk into a gun store and buy explosives. It doesn't matter who it is. You can also be a terrorist and do the same thing. Again, I ask everyone to think about that. A person with suspected ties to terrorism can walk into a store now and buy all of the explosives they want. They can buy all the guns they want.

The so-called terror gap is outrageous and terribly reckless. How can something like this go unaddressed in modern-day America?

Democrats have tried repeatedly for the past year to close that loophole, but we have been prevented from doing that by the Republicans. We can argue from now on about whether this bill could have prevented this weekend's attacks, but one thing is for sure: It could prevent the next attack.

But we know this loophole shouldn't exist. We know terror suspects shouldn't be given a free pass to buy all the guns and all the explosives they want, and we know the American people want this loophole closed. Eighty-five percent of the people in Indiana, in Nevada, in Kentucky—85 percent of the people in America—support legislation keeping explosives and guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists. If you can't fly, why should you be able to buy a gun? If you can't fly, why should you be able to buy explosives? The only reason the FBI terror suspects are allowed to buy guns and explosives is simply because of Republican opposition. That is the reason.

This state of affairs defies belief. It is hard to believe that in America today an FBI terror suspect who cannot fly

on an airplane can walk into a gun store in Las Vegas, New York City, or anyplace and legally purchase explosives and assault weapons. But it is true because Republicans refuse to close the terror gap loophole.

In the aftermath of these attacks, our constituents are looking for us to help. They want to feel safe. They want to be safe. We can help provide that safety by closing the terror loophole, but Democrats can't do it alone. We need help from the Republicans.

Mr. President, I see no one seeking recognition, so I 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.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 516, H.R. 5325, a bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, we have a bit of good news because earlier today the CDC, or the Centers for Disease Control, announced that it had lifted its travel advisory to not go into a section north of downtown Miami called Wynwood. It is the neighborhood where the first locally transmitted Zika virus was found. So the fact that they said today that this area is no longer considered an area of active transmission is certainly good news, not only for those who live there but for those businesses that are dependent on those who are planning to visit there. That is just one area of Florida.

There are now 835 active cases of Zika-infected people in the State of Florida. If you compare that to the number for the total United States, talking about infections, in 49 of the 50 States, it is 3,132. If you add our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico and the territories, fellow American citizens, 17,315 are infected with the Zika virus. In Florida, 86 pregnant women are infected with the Zika virus. The total in the Nation is 731. In Puerto Rico—pri-

marily there, although bringing in all the territories, it is 1,156. Combining Puerto Rico, the territories, and the United States, we are talking about close to 2,000 pregnant women infected with the Zika virus.

We know that the CDC has said that there is anywhere from a 1-percent to 12-percent chance—if a woman is infected in the first trimester of pregnancy, there is a 1- to 12-percent chance that her baby will be born with defects. If you do the math on the nearly 2,000 pregnant women, we are talking about a substantial number of birth defects, including the possibility of what we have heard about and seen—microcephaly, babies with a deformed brain and shrunken head. In Puerto Rico they already had one live birth of microcephaly and they had one who did not live after birth.

We can expect to see huge numbers coming on down the line. That is all the more reason for us—since we started our request for funding last spring—to get at this by doing a Zika vaccine. It is now ready to go into the FDA first trials. A vaccine is at least 2 years away, but we have to get started, and that costs money.

The administration has been robbing Peter to pay Paul, finding every little pot of money that it can borrow from since last spring in order to try to fund the preventive measures of a vaccine, mosquito control, and all the attendant health expenditures through our health care centers that are sponsored and paid for by the government, and particularly for the very poor. As a matter of fact, the government raided the Ebola fund of \$576 million to advance it to Zika. Well, we need to pay back all of those funds that were raided, and that is incumbent upon us now here at the last minute before we adjourn to go home to campaign before the election. You know, those words are suddenly similar to the words we used in early July, trying to get that done before the summer recess for the political conventions. Yet we did not.

The good news is that it looks as though there is now an agreement on Zika. As a result, we can come up with a funding bill to keep the government open until we can pass a permanent funding bill for this fiscal year starting October 1. We will pass a temporary one until sometime in early December. That will give us a chance to try to do the permanent one. In the meantime, the government has to stay open. We have to fund the functions of government, including national security and the U.S. Department of Defense.

So one would think that this bill would be all done, but, unrelated to Zika, there are other issues that are threatening the funding bill. At the end of the day, we will get it done. Some of the issues are over as arcane a subject as who is going to administer the issuance of domain names on the Internet. There seems to be some controversy over that. As a result, we are here at the last minute, at the last