

IAEA, that were not submitted to Congress for our review. The IAEA released a report on the possible military dimensions, known as PMD, of Iran's nuclear program that proved that Iran lied about its nuclear program in the past and continued to stonewall investigations into outstanding questions that remain; yet, the Iranian nuclear deal, the JCPOA, was allowed to move forward in spite of that.

Also, the Obama administration purchased 32 metric tons of heavy water from Iran. What makes this so egregious, Mr. Speaker, is that this purchase was arranged in order to prevent Iran from violating the very terms of the Iranian nuclear deal, the JCPOA. As if that were not bad enough, with the administration reselling the purchased heavy water to domestic and commercial buyers, well, that makes the U.S. a proliferator of Iran nuclear materials, all while legitimizing Iran as a nuclear supplier. Outrageous.

Also, Iran has renewed its interest and increased its presence in Latin America and throughout the Western Hemisphere. Iran's Rouhani will be visiting Cuba and Venezuela in the upcoming week.

We learned that the administration allowed the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act sanctions against Iran to sit on a desk during the negotiations, despite a legal mandate to provide these reports to Congress every 6 months. That was the law. It was ignored.

Also, Russia announced that it has resumed the sale of S-300s to Iran. And just last month, Iran announced that it deployed these S-300s, Russian surface-to-air missiles, around its Fordow nuclear site to safeguard it from attacks.

The administration announced a \$1.7 billion settlement on a 35-year dispute with Iran—conveniently the day after sanctions were lifted on its central bank. What a coincidence. And we learned that Iran plans to use this ransom money for its military budget and for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC, the Quds Force, meaning the U.S. taxpayers not only are on the hook for a ransom payment to Iran, but we are also subsidizing its nefarious activities.

Where has this transparency been? When it comes to Iran and the nuclear deal, the JCPOA, there is an overwhelming sense that we are only beginning to scratch the surface of just how bad this deal really is. We need only to look back at what has happened with North Korea to understand the depth and the breadth of this failed Iranian policy because, as I keep repeating, Mr. Speaker, Iran has been following the North Korea playbook by the page, by the letter.

And what have we just witnessed a few days ago? Well, North Korea just conducted its second nuclear detonation since the JCPOA—the Iran nuclear deal—was made, and it is its fifth detonation in the last 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, the JCPOA has been a foreign policy disaster already, but the

real ramifications are yet to come. Congress must take action. First, we must hold the administration accountable, and we must get the full truth behind the details of this JCPOA—the Iran nuclear deal—and the administration's Iran policy.

The supposed most transparent administration in history has been anything but, going out of its way to stonewall and misdirect Congress and our oversight responsibilities on this flawed and dangerous nuclear deal.

Second, Mr. Speaker, we must hold Iran accountable, and that means extending sanctions, expanding sanctions, renewing sanctions, and preventing Iran from being able to continue down this dangerous path.

These are the actions that we must take in Congress, Mr. Speaker, and I stand ready to work with my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to find the right way forward because Iran has not changed its stripes.

ZIKA IS A REAL THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, it is almost as if the majority would prefer to go into the final stretch of the election season with fresh reminders of how dysfunctional things have become.

No action on commonsense gun control measures, no action on immigration or climate change, no action on the Zika virus that is taking a huge toll in the United States and Puerto Rico and is poised to take an even bigger one.

Congress is still in denial that Zika is a real threat and that the next generation of children could be exposed to the disease with dangerous and debilitating birth defects. It is hard for me to articulate this out loud, but, in just a few weeks, the first group of children born with brain development and physical problems associated with the disease will be born in Puerto Rico.

We are looking at more than 15,000 reported cases of Zika in Puerto Rico and more than 2,000 pregnant women. At the current pace, Zika will infect a quarter of the island in the next year. This is the first mosquito-borne disease that successfully infects children in the womb through the placenta. It can be sexually transmitted. Humans give Zika to mosquitoes and then go on to infect other humans.

And Congress has the same response it has to almost everything—nothing. In this case, nothing flavored with a little partisan posturing over abortion in an election year. The issue for some people seems to be that we can fund research, prevention, and treatment as long as one of the most important proven and effective healthcare delivery mechanisms for women is excluded because Planned Parenthood is on the Republican hit list.

No matter that funding Planned Parenthood in Puerto Rico or anywhere

else would be the prudent use of Federal funds if our goal is to prevent the spread of disease and prevent—that is prevent, not terminate—unwanted pregnancies during this crisis. Politics and elections always seem to trump good, sensible policies.

So nothing yet from Congress, despite the pleas from the Obama administration, the CDC, and the American people. But Congress is not the only place in denial about Zika.

Having spent time talking to people on the island of Puerto Rico, the people are also complacent about this disease and the impact it will have. Many suspect that it is all hype from Washington and yet another crisis to give the United States more control over the island of Puerto Rico.

Given the island's history, the point of view is not unreasonable that Congress just appointed an unelected control board, or junta, to take control of the island's government and finances.

For decades, the United States used Puerto Rico, and especially the island of Vieques, for target practice for our military. And for more than a decade, the United States has been denying the health and environmental impact of that bombing, including cancer and other diseases that people on the island know are real because their relatives are dying. And back in my mother's day, in the 1950s and the 1960s, family planning that came from the United States was forced sterilization.

So I understand why people are skeptical when so far it has been hard to demonstrate the consequences of the Zika virus and how it could make life any worse than it already is. But, again, in just a few weeks, when we see children born with mental and physical impairments, it will become clear that Zika is real.

Puerto Rico must rise to the challenge presented by Zika and bridge the deep ocean of distrust between the Puerto Rican people and the United States. That is why I spent a lot of my time over the past month meeting with public health experts, doctors, and scientists. Every one of them was Puerto Rican, not people sent from the U.S. Puerto Rico needs an integrated, comprehensive mosquito vector control center that Puerto Ricans are coming together to discuss, so it can be created quickly.

□ 1015

This is the mosquito tracking eradication that is deployed when a disease is detected so that resources can be concentrated on a neighborhood or city if an infectious disease like Zika is present. You saw it work in Miami.

Puerto Rico does not have access to contraception that you would expect in the 21st century, but Puerto Rican doctors, gynecologists, scientists, and experts are also strategizing about how to make modern, effective, reversible family planning more widely available so that women can delay pregnancy.

But while Puerto Ricans can drive the process of addressing Zika in Puerto Rico—and this will lead to much

greater acceptance of those strategies by the Puerto Rican people and greater success in the long run—that does not get Congress off the hook.

Puerto Rico, like the United States, needs this Congress to fund the President's request for funding and also for the Federal Government to do its job. In Puerto Rico, this includes the Environmental Protection Agency addressing toxic landfills that dot the island, which are breeding grounds for mosquitoes but have been overlooked by the EPA.

A generation of children in Puerto Rico and all over the United States are counting on the U.S. Congress to protect them from the Zika virus, and I hope this Congress puts politics aside and rises to the occasion. They are American citizens on the island of Puerto Rico. They will be coming to the United States when they need health care.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the op-ed piece I wrote for The Hill newspaper on Zika and Puerto Rico.

[Sept. 12, 2016]

U.S. AND PUERTO RICO MUST COOPERATE ON
ZIKA

(By Rep. Luis V. Gutiérrez)

The rapid spread of the Zika virus in Puerto Rico is a very, very big problem for the U.S. and Puerto Rico but the colonial relationship between the U.S. and Puerto Rico is making it a lot worse. The reason this matter is so important to the United States—beyond the obvious concern for the well-being of our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico, of course—is that thousands of U.S. tourists and visitors go back and forth to Puerto Rico and thousands of Puerto Ricans leave the Island permanently for life in the U.S., driven out by the financial crisis gripping the Island. Zika is the first mosquito-borne virus known to cause birth-defects and to be sexually transmitted, so an outbreak of the magnitude that has already hit Puerto Rico is a public health crisis for the United States as well.

If you talk to average Puerto Ricans on the Island as I often do, they are not experiencing Zika as a big issue. They do not think the threat is real. Most people who are infected feel no symptoms and the negative consequences only affects pregnant women—or so most people think. Puerto Ricans, having lived with mosquito transmitted diseases for decades, have become immune to dire warnings from so-called experts and some are resigned to the false notion that nothing can be done.

Even with 13,791 cases reported, an estimated 2,000 pregnant women already infected and a disease trajectory that indicates 20–25% of the population will be affected this year, Puerto Rico has resisted guidance or help coming from Washington.

Why? The colonial attitude of the U.S. towards Puerto Rico and the understandable response to such treatment effects the psyche of the population. A half-century of Navy target practice bombing on the inhabited Island of Vieques (among other places in and around Puerto Rico) was followed by decades of U.S. government denials that cancers and environmental destruction in Vieques were connected to the U.S. government's actions. History is informative: Previous public health interventions from Washington included forced sterilization of women of my mother's generation. This treatment as second-class (at best) citizens

of the United States deeply impacts the Puerto Rican psyche, with long term effects. And this is helping Zika spread.

Now, a control board imposed by the U.S. government through Congress' PROMESA legislation is preparing to take over decision-making that will determine the future of all Puerto Ricans living on the Island. Distrust of Washington is at an all-time high in Puerto Rico, based on my observations.

And unfortunately, this is making it harder for health officials to do what needs to be done to control the Zika outbreak. Unlike in Miami, Florida, there was a swift and sharp backlash from Puerto Ricans when the idea of spraying Naled—an insecticide—was raised. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) sent a shipment to the Island in anticipation of the Island requesting help, but the backlash in local media ranged from basic environmental concerns all the way up to elaborate conspiracy theories that a fictitious colonial genocide of the Puerto Rican people was at hand.

In reality, CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden has personally assured me that Naled is a pesticide used widely for a long time—including in Miami and other U.S. cities—with very few consequences for people. The consequences for the environment and other insects—including bees—can be minimized through sensible application of Naled. But, in this era of deep distrust, none of the facts are reassuring to Puerto Ricans. The Naled shipment, if it is still in Puerto Rico, remains unused. Due to years of random unchecked chemical pesticide use by private providers, mosquitoes in Puerto Rico are highly resistant to common chemical strategies. Naled was one of the only effective options currently available. Mosquitoes breed quickly, bite quietly and thrive in urban and rural areas—sometimes hitting four or five people in a single meal—so the spread of the disease in Puerto Rico is happening astonishingly quickly.

Part of the problem can be addressed if the CDC and Puerto Rico work together to build on the success they have had in addressing the Dengue Fever virus, another mosquito-borne disease that—like Chikungunya—has hit Puerto Rico hard. The CDC scientists have provided research and resources to combat Dengue for over 35 years.

An important first step would be for Puerto Rico to create an integrated, comprehensive mosquito control center, but given the financial crisis in Puerto Rico, this will only happen if the federal government funds it and the Puerto Rican people accept it. A group of international and local technical experts in vector control management met in San Juan in May of 2016 and came to this same conclusion. The potential to control and eliminate the Zika-carrying mosquito from Puerto Rico is possible with a well-funded mosquito control center that implements an integrated comprehensive vector management approach using safe, effective and innovative strategies. Miami and every major U.S. jurisdiction has a vector control unit and Miami's sprang into action to address the outbreak there, including spraying with Naled. Such a unit provides the infrastructure and expertise to address an outbreak like Zika, manage its spread, and is constantly working to provide protection from mosquitoes that cause diseases like Dengue and Chikungunya, which are endemic in Puerto Rico.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could help by addressing the crisis of more than two dozen toxic municipal landfills that seem to be flying under EPA's radar. These are breeding grounds for mosquitoes and the Island's government needs help to address these hazards, as I and others have noted to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

This must be combined with an investment to address the immediate needs of those infected and to help women avoid or delay pregnancy. Access to modern, effective, reversible birth control has been late in coming to the public health system in Puerto Rico, but access is growing. Women's reproductive health is a critical need, but for Republicans in Congress, contraception and women's health care are lightning rods that tend to induce divisiveness or paralysis or both.

The most important thing Congress can do is stop squabbling and fund the President's request for a national strategy to fight Zika, which would include funding to help Puerto Rico address the 17 disease at ground zero. Doing nothing is what this Congress is good at, but there comes a time when Republican leaders need to put their country before their party—even in an election year—and let the resources and experts of the federal government fight this disease.

Let us prevent as best we can an outbreak that will be tremendously costly in lives and hardship in the decades to come. Congress must act now. The CDC must be allowed to act now. The next generation, the future of Puerto Rico, is likely to be born with reduced brain capacity, birth defects and a range of developmental disabilities. Let's face it, in the arena of evolution—the mosquitoes are winning. Puerto Rico—and Puerto Ricans—must understand how serious this really is and address it aggressively with all tools at their disposal, including help from the federal government. We need to act in concert for the good of Puerto Rico and the United States.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, The Denver Post Editorial Board published a piece supporting the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. Their endorsement joins 72 other papers, including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and the National Review.

I thank my colleagues from Colorado, Representative MIKE COFFMAN and SCOTT TIPTON, who were both cosponsors of H.R. 2646. Their State, unfortunately, is all too familiar with the realities of mental illness and the tragedies that come along when there is no treatment for those who suffer from it.

In Colorado, every 8 hours, one person dies by suicide. Their suicide rate is one of the highest in the country. Sadly, Colorado has also witnessed more mentally troubled mass killers than most, including James Holmes, who, in 2012, took 12 innocent lives at a movie theater in Aurora; and Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who murdered 12 of their fellow students, one teacher, and went on to take their own lives at Columbine High School in 1999.

Mental health and the tragedies that occur before treatment are not restricted to one State, however. The Denver Post recognizes this when they report that “more than 11 million adults suffer from a mental illness, and almost half of them do not seek treatment or cannot find it.”