

more are being monitored. Across the globe, more than 90,000 are sick and 3,000 have died.

Rhode Islanders and all Americans deserve a strong, effective, and fully funded response to this health crisis. That is why the House will vote this week on an emergency appropriations bill that addresses the scale and seriousness of the coronavirus epidemic. This bill will ensure public health officials have the resources they need right now.

It is critical that the Senate send it to the President's desk as soon as the House acts, and, for his part, the President needs to stop calling this situation a hoax. This isn't about him; it is about protecting the American people. When the bill gets to his desk, he should sign it and then step aside and let the scientists, the doctors, and the public health experts do their jobs.

This is no time for politics. It is about keeping the American people safe. The House will do our job. The President should start doing his.

AMERICA WILL ADAPT TO MEET CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH CORONAVIRUS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as compared to other historic viruses and outbreaks in recent years, the coronavirus, so far, is a lesser threat.

Let's compare it to H1N1, also known as the swine flu of 2009. The CDC has estimated that approximately 60 million people in the U.S. contracted H1N1 during that 2009 outbreak, leading to the death of around 12,000 Americans.

Even more alarming, during this current 2019-2020 flu season, approximately 18,000 people, unfortunately, have died as a result of the more conventional flu. Currently, in the U.S., there are 105 confirmed cases of coronavirus, resulting in the unfortunate death of six people so far. We expect these numbers will go up.

While this outbreak is, indeed, a problem, the CDC, not politicians, continue to claim that the American public are unlikely to be exposed to coronavirus.

During the Republican majority in Congress, we made several strategic investments in key health resources to prevent the spread of a virus like this one, including a 24 percent increase in CDC funding and a 70 percent increase in infectious disease response.

So, instead of sounding an alarm, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue to remind Americans that our country will adapt to the challenges coming.

For people, individually: Work on limiting your own risk by washing your hands frequently.

HONORING KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, with Easter around the corner, I rise to heap praise on an icon in Katy, Texas, in Fort Bend County. Her name is Deysi Crespo. She is the CEO of Katy Christian Ministries, otherwise known as KCM.

KCM has one holy mission: transforming life through God's grace and generosity of the community.

KCM has 52 member churches, partners. Deysi started there as a volunteer in the resale shop in 2007.

Deysi is a living, breathing example that the American Dream comes through faith. At 7 years old, she left rampant poverty in Central America for Katy, Texas. After a few months, she no longer hungered for food.

Deysi had a building hunger inside of her body to end poverty for others and intervene in crisis with God's love. The rest is history. Under Deysi's leadership, KCM earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and the Hurricane Harvey Response Award from the Houston Food Bank.

If you are in Katy this March, say hola, or hello, to Deysi. She will be at the Katy Charity Bubble Run. That is set on March 28 in Katy, Texas, and Deysi guarantees the love of Christ will be waiting for all who come to the Bubble Run.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 3, 2020.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 3, 2020, at 9:21 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5671.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS BY ARMED GROUPS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 387) condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 387

Whereas the overthrow of the Government of the Central African Republic in March 2013 and subsequent violence has led to the proliferation of multiple armed groups, which have been responsible for widespread atrocities based on perceived or actual religious or ethnic identities;

Whereas the United Nations (UN) concluded in 2014 that the Central African Republic's minority Muslim community had been the target of ethnic cleansing, and multiple UN officials have warned of a risk of genocide;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, an estimated 2,900,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, over 590,000 Central Africans are refugees in neighboring countries, and over 640,000 people are displaced, most of whom are women and children;

Whereas armed groups continue to engage in gross human rights abuses, violence, pillaging, and the illicit trafficking of natural resources such as ivory, gold, cattle, and diamonds;

Whereas armed groups have intentionally targeted personnel from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), aid workers, and journalists, making the Central African Republic one of the world's most dangerous operating environments for humanitarian actors;

Whereas the Central African Republic has made significant progress toward democracy by conducting democratic elections despite the lack of security around electoral polling stations and some irregularities, and inaugurated President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in March 2016;

Whereas the establishment of the Special Criminal Court in June 2017 and the creation of more than 1,000 peace committees across the country demonstrate a genuine commitment to justice and accountability on the part of the people of the Central African Republic; and

Whereas, since 2013, the United States has been the largest single donor to the humanitarian response in the Central African Republic, promoted peace and social cohesion, supported the deployment of MINUSCA, enacted sanctions against senior leaders of armed groups, and provided life-saving assistance to communities in the Central African Republic affected by the crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that strong United States leadership and support for the stability of the Central African Republic is necessary for the security and future stability of the region;

(2) condemns violence against civilians, humanitarian workers, journalists, faith leaders, and United Nations peacekeepers by all armed actors operating within the Central African Republic;