

disadvantaged and hurt and left behind if we take money from the program that this Congress appropriated to be spent on Ebola.

The gentleman came to me, we did have a bipartisan meeting, which I have referred to and the gentleman has referred to. Tony Fauci was there, Secretary Burwell was there, Dr. Frieden was there from the Centers for Disease Control.

All of them said that the suggestion that we take money from Ebola and put it towards Zika would harm the effort to ensure that Ebola does not come back to our shores and, in fact, is controlled overseas as well, because if it is overseas, it will ultimately come on shore here in America; so that they have asked for the resources to deal with Zika now. The longer we wait, the more difficult it will be.

I agree with the gentleman entirely, that we are finding out new things as each day goes by, as each week goes by. But the fact of the matter is we need to give them the assurance that they will have the resources to deploy the kind of effort that we need to make sure that Zika does not become an epidemic here in this country, in Puerto Rico, in the Virgin Islands, and in other places in the world.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, it is, to me, very ironic. I have heard this year, in years past, EPA, get out of our lives. EPA, stay out of our communities. EPA, we don't need your advice and counsel.

Mr. Speaker, the Governor of Michigan, knowing full well that the water from the Flint River was not the kind of water that we ought to be feeding to our children and to our adults, and refusing to spend the money to treat the pipes so that they would have been lined and the lead from the pipes would not leach into the water and adversely affect the health of the children of Flint, nevertheless, went ahead.

In January of last year, the EPA advised the Governor of Michigan and the Department of Environmental Quality in Michigan, you are getting lead in your water. It is dangerous. January 15, 2015.

Notwithstanding that advice, the Receiver, appointed by the Governor of Flint—the mayor wasn't in charge, the city council wasn't in charge. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, appointed by a Republican Governor, kept feeding the water to the people of Flint. And we have now determined that EPA kept after them after January 15, and their advice was ignored and, in fact, said, look, we have got it. We can handle this. We have experts.

Frankly, a professor from Virginia Tech started testing the children and found that, tragically, the lead levels in the blood of the children of Flint were going up to dangerous and harmful levels.

So, Mr. Leader, very frankly, your party has made it very clear repeatedly on the bills that you have brought to

the floor, you don't want EPA involved. I don't mean you personally. Let me make that clear, Mr. Speaker.

But the votes on this floor have been to reduce EPA's authority, to reduce their involvement, to reduce reliance on EPA's wisdom on behalf of the health and environment of our country.

So then on all three of those issues, Mr. Speaker, let me say something in conclusion.

I know it is Holy Week. And what Holy Week teaches us is that we need to care for one another; that we need to make sure, Mr. Speaker, when there are those in trouble and at risk, that we act. If that is not what Holy Week is about, I don't know what it is about.

We ought to be about the business of responding, Mr. Speaker, to these three crises. Now, we don't have to do it on a Saturday, and I agree with my friend, the majority leader.

We say that all the time, "my friend," but KEVIN MCCARTHY is my friend, Mr. Speaker. I have great respect for him. He is hardworking, he is honest, and he cares about our country. Let there be no mistake.

But what I am trying to do, Mr. Speaker, is simply to elevate a sense of urgency to respond to two emergencies that confront Americans; and that we, therefore, have a responsibility to act, act promptly, decisively, and effectively. I am urging that we do that, and I am urging that we not waste time in accomplishing that objective.

I am through, unless the majority leader would like to respond further. I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I just want to respond to a few points you made.

The money that we are talking about using for Zika, so nobody is delayed, is leftover money from the emergency supplemental voted in 2014. I know it is dealing with Ebola, but it is \$3 billion sitting over there. They have some leftover money that they should make sure that they don't wait 1 day to start working.

Now, you talk of the budget. We just passed a budget out of the Budget Committee that had a discretionary number of \$1.07 trillion. Nowhere does it show that that is not the agreement.

Now, you and I can debate a lot, but since Republicans took the majority, if you look at the numbers of—and I know in your last year in the majority, you didn't produce a budget. But we have saved America tremendous, more than \$800 billion by taking the majority.

Now, you and I both know that the real challenge for America is the mandatory spending, and we have to get to that.

Now, when you talk about the EPA, the challenge that I find, and nobody should ever have water like Flint had. But I am very passionate about this issue. I am passionate that the children have drinking water. You know why? Because that same thing is happening in my State because of lack of water.

Every year we have been in the majority, we have passed a bill here dealing with California water, but it goes nowhere in the Senate.

I want the same for children across the country, because it is not just these two areas, there are lots of places we have to deal with this.

But if I remind the gentleman, I think it was just a month ago, bipartisan on this floor, the vote was 416-2, telling the EPA not to hold information because, when it came to Flint, they knew of it and they waited months before they brought that information forward.

So you and I work together, just as both sides of the aisle in here. They said the EPA needs to stop. If they have information on any community, don't hold that, release it. People need to be warned. People need to be advised.

I was proud of the fact that both sides joined together, and I look forward to our being able to work on the other issues.

Now, you and I may have a disagreement on the timing, because what I have found, these committees have been working. We want to get it right. And in no way, in no shape, have we not kept you, one, a part of it, or if we even have a meeting, advised of it.

Congressman SENSENBRENNER walked from a meeting with the Speaker, the committee chairs, and me directly over to your Leader PELOSI, the same time that we have been dealing with this within the committee, showing all what is being worked on, and I hope we can keep that same working together as we solve the problem.

I wish the gentleman from Maryland good luck in his NCAA bracket. But as he knows, Cal State Bakersfield has never lost in the tournament. Now don't take it we have never been in it, but we have never lost yet.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate his wishes of good luck, and I hope they result in many Maryland victories. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, obviously, we don't have a difference on objectives. And yes, the gentleman from Wisconsin did walk across yesterday, yesterday.

The Puerto Rican bankruptcy challenge has been confronting us for more than two-thirds of a year. This is not something new. Zika is new, but Puerto Rico's bankruptcy challenge is not new.

So I am simply saying, Mr. Speaker, that these are matters of urgency, of crisis, and we believe that we ought to work on those. We believe working together, as the majority leader said, we can get that done, and we would hope that we would do so.

Unless the majority leader wants to say something further, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016, TO MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the

House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, March 21, 2016, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURBELO of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Women's History Month, I rise to honor a pioneer for women's suffrage from my district.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, New York, where she attended Johnstown Academy until the age of 16. As Members of this House and people across our country know, Elizabeth would go on to be one of the true trailblazers of the women's suffrage movement for our Nation.

She helped organize the Seneca Falls Convention, where she presented a Declaration of Sentiments, a call for women's rights, proclaiming that men and women are equal, which was a revolutionary concept in 1848.

As the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, I certainly would not be here today on the House floor without the passion, activism, and dedication of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. And so it is my honor to celebrate her legacy today for Women's History Month.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND POVERTY

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Women's History Month, but also highlight the harmful impact of poverty on women all over our Nation.

This month we celebrate Women's History Month and reflect on the generations of American women and their many contributions that have brought us to this place in our history.

For example, as Women's History Month was being created back in the 1970s, the Honorable, the late Shirley Chisholm, my mentor and friend, she was making history. She became the first African American woman to serve in Congress, and the first woman and African American to run for President of the United States.

Throughout her career, she broke many glass ceilings, while remaining unbought and unbossed.

Today we see women challenging the status quo everywhere, from sports and politics, to STEM fields and corporate boardrooms. In fact, I am proud to serve in this Congress that has 104 women, the most in history, with our very first Speaker, NANCY PELOSI.

But too many women are still fighting to break down barriers and lift themselves and their families out of poverty. It is truly a disgrace that in 2016, despite making up 50 percent of the workforce, women still earn 77 cents, on average, for every \$1 a man makes.

Even worse, African American women earn 64 cents and Latina women earn 55 cents for every \$1 a man makes.

□ 1315

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S STRATEGY TO END HOMELESSNESS

(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, in 2015, the Department of Housing and Urban Development released a new strategy that will affect ending homelessness and the programs involved. However, this top-down approach is forcing homeless shelters to change the way they serve the most vulnerable members of their communities or risk losing access to Federal grants.

In my district, at least two different homeless shelters have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding that they once received. The Esplanade House has provided a housing option to homeless families with children in Chico, California, for over 25 years. The programs they have put in place for their residents have achieved remarkable success rates. Because of HUD's new approach, the Esplanade House's ability to continue to help the less fortunate members of their community is in jeopardy.

I have sent a letter to Secretary Castro and plan to meet with his staff to make sure our concerns are heard and that this new approach is revised. Indeed, it has taken away accountability of their clients, and now just makes handouts.

A Washington-knows-best approach that doesn't take into consideration the impact it has at the local level is the wrong way to fight homelessness. We need to empower these local entities to be more effective in fighting homelessness in the future.

HALT ANTI-IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS ON AMICUS BRIEF

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on House Republicans to halt their proceedings to file an anti-immigrant amicus brief with the Supreme Court on behalf of the entire House of Representatives. The document in question hasn't even been made public, and the House of Representatives is trying to speak on behalf of the entire Chamber and our Nation without allowing us to even see the language.

What will the brief say? Will the Court tell the House of Representatives to encourage tearing families apart by rounding up and deporting DREAMers? Will they advocate ending birthright citizenship and repealing part of the 14th Amendment? Will it call for building their big, beautiful, 50-foot-tall wall along our southern border?

Comprehensive immigration reform has historically been an issue that receives bipartisan support, and I welcome this discussion. We are here as a nation of immigrants. Let's work together to fix our broken immigration system.

RECOGNIZING UALR MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Arkansas at Little Rock men's basketball team on their successful 2015-2016 season. On Saturday, February 28, the Trojans won their first outright Sun Belt Conference title after 25 seasons in the league.

In the first year under Chris Beard's leadership as head coach, the team embarked on one of the greatest turnarounds in the program's history, improving on a 13-18 record 1 year ago to a current record of 26 wins and 3 losses.

They are now moving on to victories, and I look forward to their continued success. As we see on the eve of March Madness, I look forward to seeing their big win against Purdue.

ISIL IN SYRIA

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the barrage of attacks committed by ISIL are crimes against humanity.

The administration's strategy in Syria and against ISIL up until now has been to do the bare minimum, which has only exacerbated the deteriorating situation. Assad remains in power and has, himself, committed an untold number of war crimes through the use of chemical weapons and barrel bombs against his own people, all while giving ISIL time to develop and to strengthen.

Last month, the administration failed to comply with the legally mandated deadline to submit a plan to Congress. However, just this week, the House unanimously passed a non-binding resolution condemning the attacks as genocide; and today, Secretary Kerry determined that Christians, Yazidis, and Shiite groups are victims of genocide. Because of the Obama administration's inaction and failure to develop a comprehensive strategy, minorities continue to be targets for these atrocious attacks.