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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

September 1, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Reid:

As Congress prepares to reconvene next week, I write today to urge immediate consideration of emergency Zika funding.

Hundreds of people have been infected in my home state of Florida as the disease continues to spread.

Our nation's leading health officials at the Centers for Disease Control have made clear they need money now to contain Zika and develop a vaccine.

As one of the first Republicans in Congress to support President Obama's call for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding, I was enormously disappointed by congressional inaction in July. The time to address this national health crisis is long overdue.

The situation in Florida worsens each week, and now looming rainfall from tropical storms threaten to create a fertile breeding ground for the mosquitoes that carry the virus. According to the Florida Department of Health, there are currently 558 travel-related Zika cases and 78 pregnant women infected with the virus across the state. A new study indicates the virus may also damage the brains of adults in addition to newborns.

Congress must put aside partisan differences and come together immediately to protect the public.

Sincerely,

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

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