

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**Cosponsor H.R. 5031, The Zika Eradication and Good Government Act of 2016**

The Zika Virus has wreaked havoc throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean, and we have seen countless individuals infected with this devastating disease. Most heartbreaking are the images of babies whose mothers are carrying Zika, and are born with smaller heads and other disabilities.

Zika is spread primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes-species mosquito, but can also be transmitted by mother to unborn child, through sexual contact, or blood transfusion. The symptoms can be hard to detect, but include fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. While Zika is rarely deadly, the disease can spread from a pregnant woman to her fetus and is linked to a serious birth defect of the brain known as microcephaly. Additional problems have been detected in fetuses whose mothers have Zika, including poorly developed brain structures, eye and hearing deficits, and impaired growth.

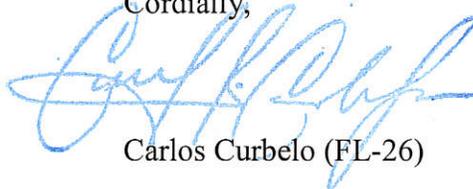
The World Health Organization declared Zika to be a public health emergency of international concern on February 1, 2016. As of April 14, 87 cases have of Zika have been identified in Florida and another 380 cases have been reported across the country.

The United States must be prepared for the first domestic transmission of the virus, especially as the summer mosquito season begins and international travel is more frequent. For these reasons, I have filed legislation that will maximize the federal government's coordination in response to eradicating Zika, all while ensuring adequate funds are made available and the taxpayer is protected. Specifically, this legislation will do the following:

- Require all unobligated funds previously made available from FY15 Omnibus, that successfully minimized the Ebola virus, be made available to eliminate Zika
- Direct all federal agencies receiving funds to work in collaboration and share best practice methods to effectively treat Zika patients and eradicate the disease
- Create a requirement after future money is dispersed for Zika that directs the President to report back to Congress each month on updated obligations, expenditures, and the effectiveness of the programs
- Provides that no new emergency supplemental funds shall be appropriated until all the obligated money made available for Ebola is dispersed, in conjunction with the President's publicly stated intentions

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Adam Wolf in Rep. Curbelo's office at x5-2778.

Cordially,



Carlos Curbelo (FL-26)