

# The Spread of Zika Virus

The Senate Must Act

# Jose Wesley, born in Brazil with Zika related microcephaly.

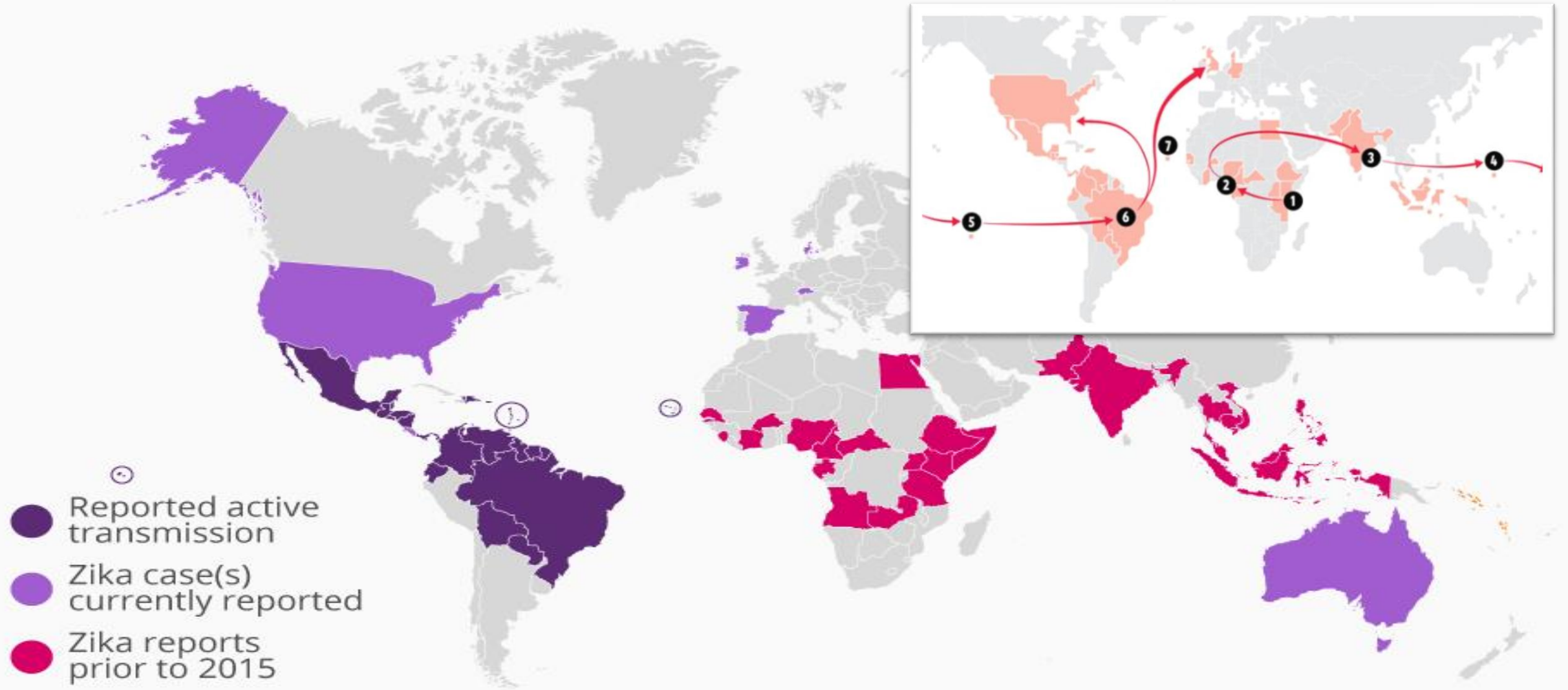


Photo Credit: Felipe Dana/AP

- Republicans seek \$1.2B to fight and prevent Zika from becoming a health crisis.
  - Ask your Senators if they are voting to combat Zika.

# The Spread Of The Zika Virus

Countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission\* and reported cases



1947

First identified in the Zika forest of Uganda

1947: First Identified



Alyson Hurt/NPR

1951-1981

Evidence of human infection was found in a number of countries in Africa and Asia

1951-1981: Africa



Katherine Du and Alyson Hurt/NPR

1951-1981: Asia



Katherine Du and Alyson Hurt/NPR

2007: Yap Island



Katherine Du and Alyson Hurt/NPR

2007

Yap Island: First detection outside of Africa and Asia

- African countries included: Central African Republic, Egypt, Gabon, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda.
- Asian countries included: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Yap Island was also the first evidence that Zika could spread rapidly through a population.

2013-2014

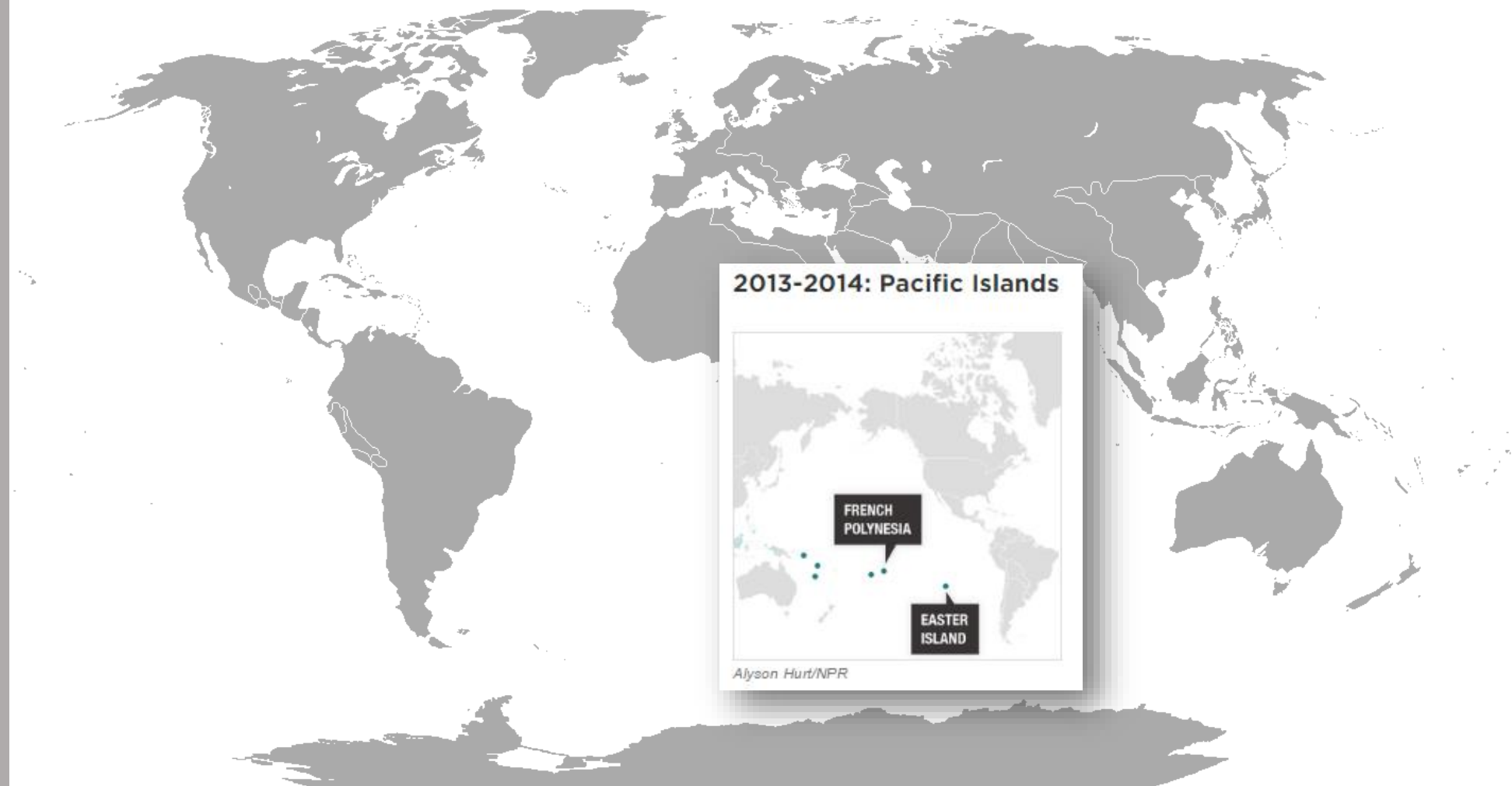
Outbreak in 4  
Pacific Islands

December 2013

French Polynesia:  
Sexual  
transmission  
evidence

March 2014

French Polynesia:  
Transplacental  
transmission  
evidence and post-  
transfusion risk



- Pacific Islands included: French Polynesia, Easter Island, the Cook Islands, and New Caledonia.
- December 2013: Zika virus was isolated from a patient's bloody sperm in French Polynesia, adding to the evidence that Zika could be sexually transmitted.
- March 2014 (French Polynesia):
  - Two infants are confirmed to have Zika, and appeared to have acquired it by transplacental transmission or during delivery.
  - Authorities became aware of the risk of post-transfusion Zika fever.

2015-2016

Outbreak in Americas

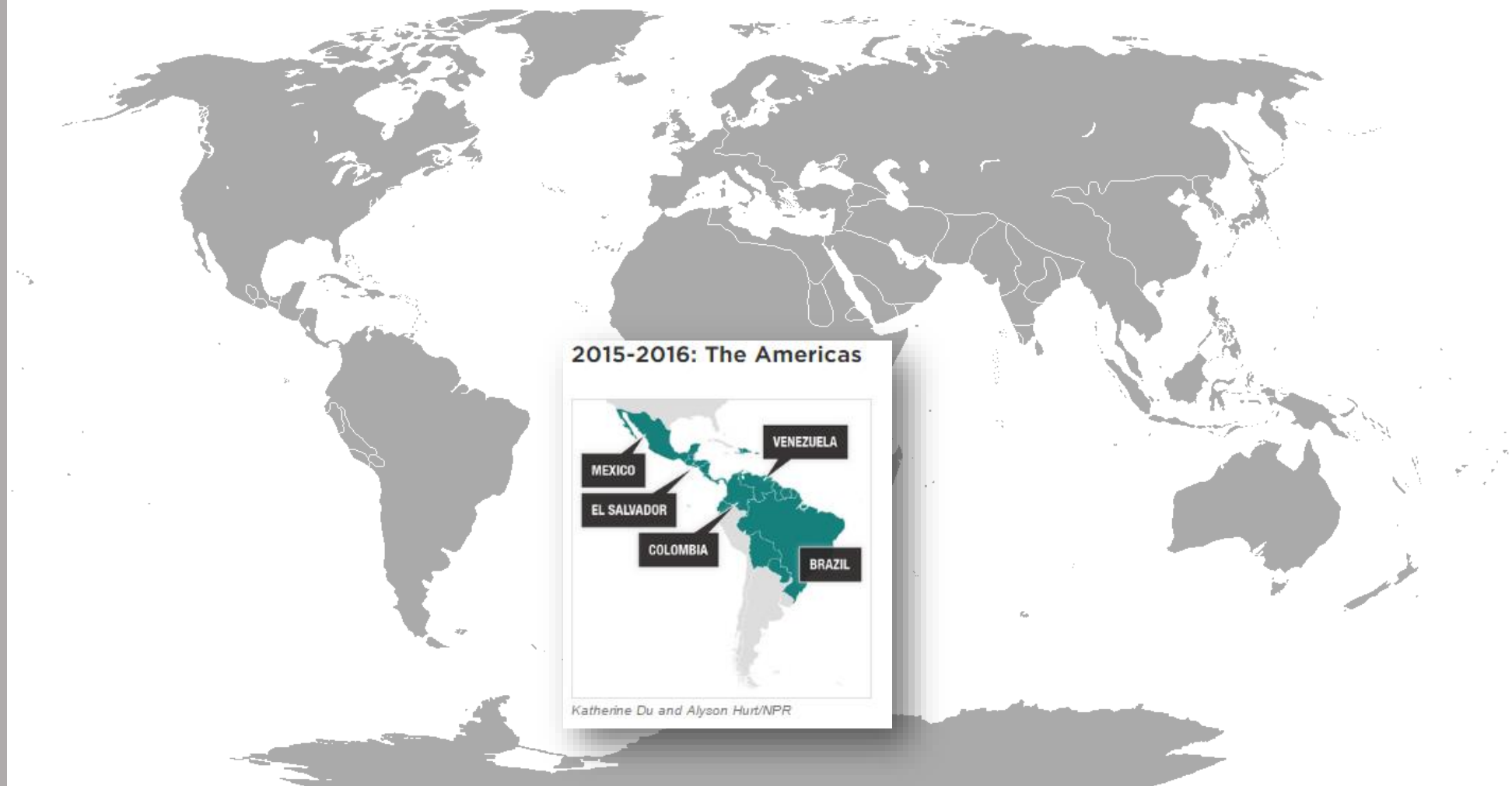
March 2015

Brazil: First report of locally acquired Zika infection in the Americas

November 2015

Microcephaly scare

Deaths from Zika infection reported



- Countries included: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, St. Martin, Suriname, U.S. Virgin Islands and Venezuela.
- November 2015:
  - Brazil declared a national public health emergency because cases of suspected microcephaly.
  - Brazil reported 3 deaths associated with Zika virus. Deaths from Zika infection are extremely rare.



December 2015

First report of locally acquired Zika infection in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

February 2016

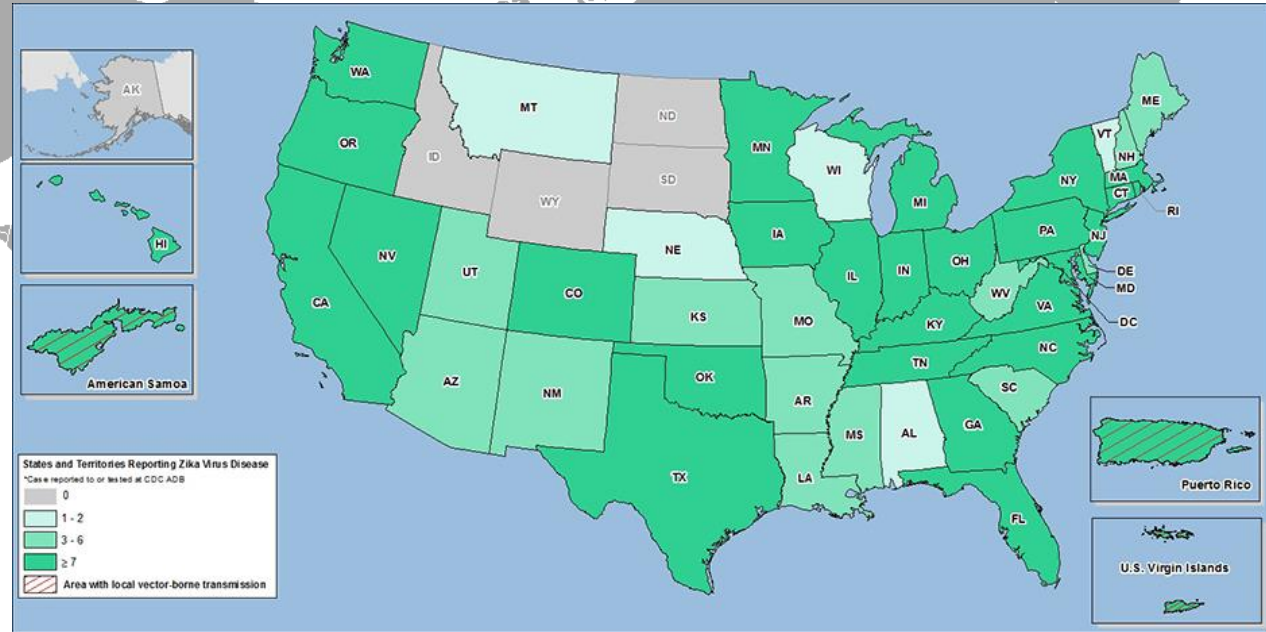
U.S. reported case of sexual transmission in Texas

April 2016

U.S. repurposed \$589M for Zika

July 2016

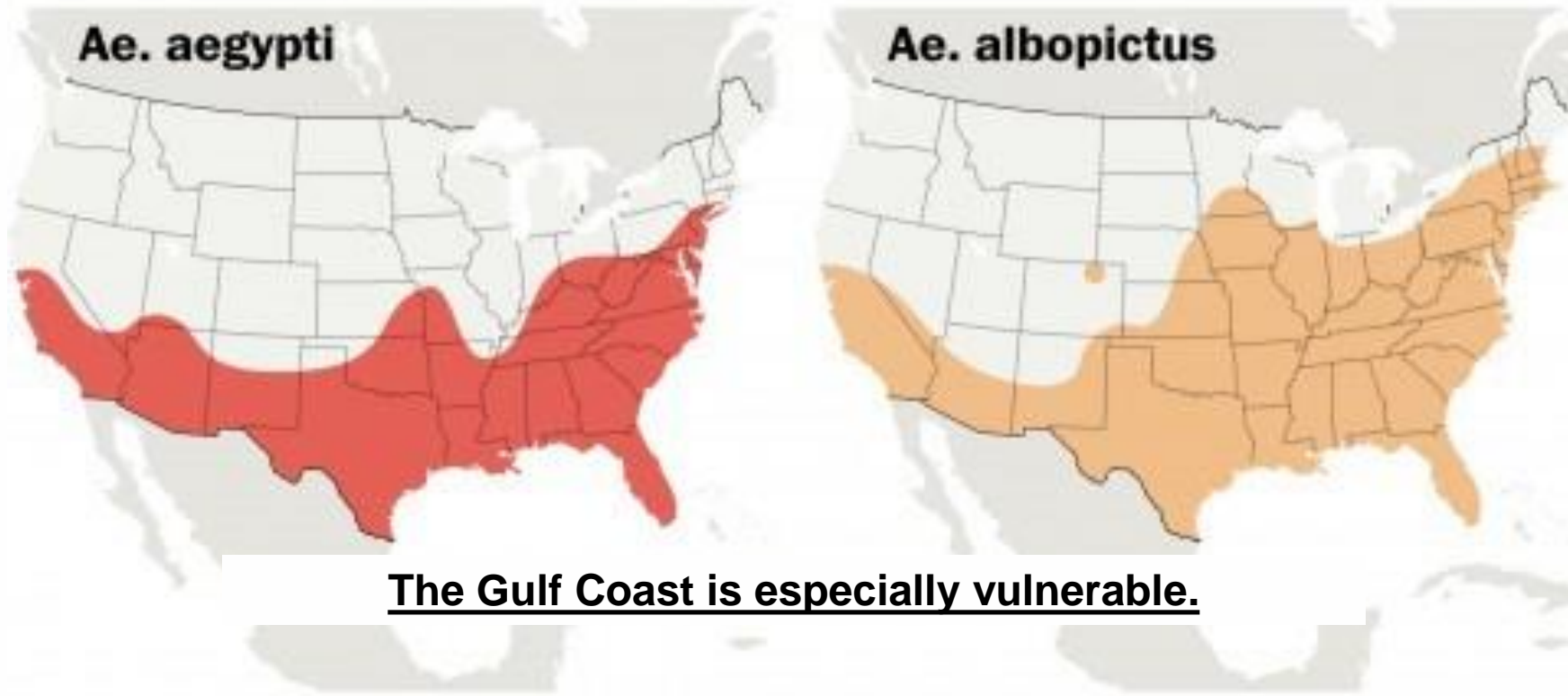
1/6<sup>th</sup> of repurposed money spent



- January 2016: First report of locally acquired Zika infection in the St. Croix.
- February 2016: First patient developed symptoms after returning from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Second patient had not traveled outside of the U.S., but developed symptoms after sexual contact with traveler.
- April 2016: U.S. Administration repurposed \$589M of unused Ebola money for Zika.
- July 6, 2016: Only \$90M, 1/6<sup>th</sup> of \$589M, has been spent.

## Estimated range of the mosquitoes behind the Zika virus

*Aedes aegypti* is considered the most important vector for Zika virus transmission to humans, but *Aedes albopictus* has been identified as a potential vector as well. U.S. southern states are especially vulnerable to the spread of Zika because of the warm, humid climate.



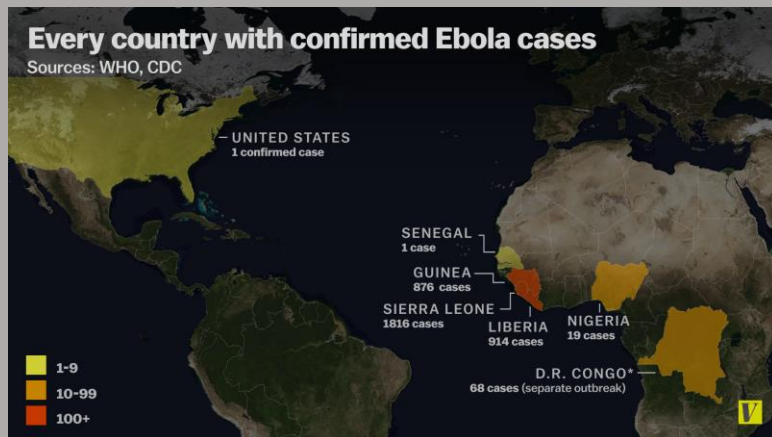


# Republicans propose \$1.2B to fight Zika now.

- \$476M-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
  - Mosquito control, education, surveillance, response
- \$230M-National Institutes of Health
  - Vaccines and testing
- \$85M-Biomedical Advanced Research & Development
  - Research, development and deployment of new tests
- \$141M-Areas with Local Transmission
  - Health care for mothers and children
- \$175M-State Dept/USAID
  - International efforts to stop Zika

# Public health emergencies are inevitable. Our pattern of responding isn't working.

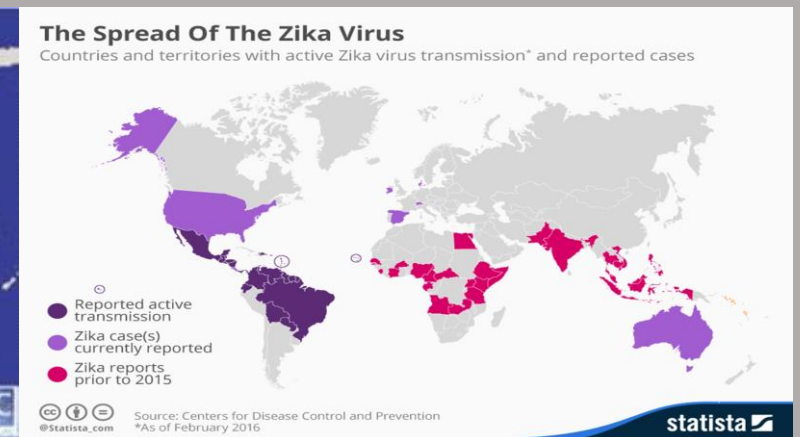
- Ebola. Zika. West Nile Virus. Public health emergencies are inevitable, and the ability to respond to them in a timely fashion is critical.
- It has become a pattern that every few years, when an outbreak of an infectious disease or other public health emergency occurs, the world community is taken by surprise. As media coverage increases, public panic grows.
- In response, the U.S. government scrambles to deal with the possible threat, sometimes appropriating billions of dollars in emergency funding, and sometimes—as is the case with Zika—delaying appropriating funds while congressional debate ensues.
- The pattern has shown that as media coverage fades, public panic recedes. Avian flu, MERS, Ebola, and other diseases fade from public and government consciousness.
- **This pattern is both financially inefficient and dangerous to public health.**



Ebola



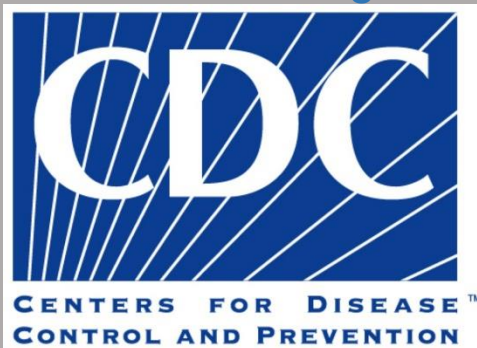
West Nile



Zika

# We need rapidly available funds in the Public Health Emergency Fund, which ensure a bridge.

- A better approach than this inefficient pattern would be to implement a permanent ability for federal response agencies
  - the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
  - the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
  - other federal departments—to respond proactively to better track and get ahead of infectious diseases and other public health emergencies before they spread or get out of control.
- Funding would ideally be spent according to best practices learned from previous responses to public health emergencies, appropriated based on historic needs, and with accountability and oversight for expended funds.



# The Public Health Emergency Response and Accountability Act does the following:

- **Public Health Emergency Fund:**

- The bill funds the existing Public Health Emergency Fund in section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. These funds would be available for response upon a declaration of a public health emergency by the HHS secretary.

- **Flexibility in Use of Funds:**

- Funds would carry emergency authorities to the agencies that use them, including transfer authority, flexible hiring, exemption from certain administration restrictions, and flexible contracting authorities.

- **Accountability:**

- Agencies involved would be required to report monthly to Congress on the progress of the response.
- Post-emergency, GAO would do a look-back audit, report to Congress, and provide recommendations on how to incorporate best response practices in the future.

# This is coming to the US



- Babies with microcephaly born in Puerto Rico, New Jersey and Hawaii.
- Two pregnant women in Illinois tested positive for Zika.
- Deaths in Utah and Puerto Rico.
- Will we work to stop it?



Please forward this presentation to your friends and ask your Senators to support our efforts to stop the spread of Zika.

