

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to consider recommendations to amend the Stafford Act regarding disaster recovery for Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and subsequent national disasters has brought extensive criticism of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act") as an inadequate and ineffective legal standard for federal response to a national disaster that causes population displacement and significant damage to property and infrastructure, and that overwhelms the capacities of state and local governments to achieve recovery; and

WHEREAS, such criticism is in part a reaction to the provisions of the Stafford Act which do not require any action remotely approaching a comprehensive, centralized, and integrated disaster mitigation, response, and recovery program with massive resources that can only be provided by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, such criticism is in part a reaction to the provisions of the Stafford Act which delegate the responsibility for recovery to state governments and establish a bureaucratic process for state requests for federal assistance, which have led to confusion and inaction, with essential assistance delayed and in many instances pleas for help being ignored; and

WHEREAS, such criticism is in part a reaction to the provisions of the Stafford Act which create neither an individual right to assistance nor a process for governmental accountability, thereby leaving people with few avenues of legal recourse for disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, such criticism is in part a reaction to provisions in the Stafford Act that do not address the specific material and humanitarian needs of people struggling to restore their lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Katrina Citizens Leadership Corps ("KCLC") has embarked on a course of developing policy recommendations for amending the Stafford Act to achieve effective disaster mitigation, response, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the KCLC report, *What It Takes to Rebuild a Village after a Disaster: Stories from Internally Displaced Children and Families of Hurricane Katrina* (July 2007), presents the recommendations for a national disaster standard that support the fair and equitable restoration of lives and communities harmed by a national disaster; and

WHEREAS, the KCLC, U.S. Conference of Mayors, United States Senate Homeland Security Committee, and Internal Displacement Project of Brookings Institution make recommendations that can support unified work to improve the current legal standard for addressing the country's response to a national disaster.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to consider recommendations to amend the Stafford Act regarding disaster recovery in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES