

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY SENATOR MURRAY

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to consider recommendations to amend the Stafford Act regarding disaster recovery for Louisiana.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Angela L. De Jean.

DIGEST

Murray

SCR No. 96

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disaster recovery in Louisiana.