

the JEFFERSON

R E P O R T



U.S. House of Representatives

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Washington, D.C. 20515

The New Orleans Region: Where We Stand Now

It has been 19 months since Hurricane Katrina completely shut down the city of New Orleans and parts of Jefferson Parish. The latest survey shows 289,000 residents who left the Greater New Orleans area after the storm have yet to return. Nationally, New Orleans has fallen from the 39th biggest city in the U.S. to the 50th. The Congress of 2005-6 did not do nearly enough to revive the city. But now, with a new Congress in place, Representative Jefferson is working directly with leadership, drafting legislation to get our people back home and directing Congress' attention back to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, which deserve an expedited recovery.

*Congressman William Jefferson:
"My focus is simply recovery. I'm fighting to restore the essentials to New Orleans and parts of Jefferson Parish. Every American is entitled to live in a community that includes good hospitals, strong schools, viable job opportunities, safe streets and accessible, affordable housing. Anything less is unacceptable."*



7 Proposals Suggested by Congressman Jefferson to Help Bring Back Our Region Pass in the House Supplemental Bill

On March 23rd, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007." Seven provisions—aimed at helping revitalize New Orleans and other Gulf Coast communities affected by Katrina—were included in the bill, and authored or co-authored by Congressman Jefferson.

The provisions are as follows:

\$4.3 billion for FEMA disaster recovery grants. In this provision, the federal government assumes full payment of the grants, and state and local match funds for these grants are waived.

\$25 million for Small Business Administration disaster loans. This provision was a direct request of Congressman Jefferson.

\$30 million for higher education assistance. This was another provision proposed to attract university professionals back to New Orleans.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) extension to September 30, 2010 - before the final supplemental bill is passed. Over \$500 million in SSBG funding provides financing for programs for mental

health, child welfare and drug addictions.

\$30 million for Kindergarten through 12th grade education recruitment assistance. Proposed by Gulf Coast Members to incentivize the restoration of our schools and to assist in teacher pay.

\$1.3 billion for east and west bank levee protection and coastal restoration system in New Orleans and surrounding parishes.

Community Disaster Loan Forgiveness. This provision includes language adopted from Congressman Jefferson's bill, later introduced by Majority Whip James Clyburn in the "Hurricane Katrina and Rita Federal Match Relief Act of 2007."

Although the supplemental bill passed in the House and subsequently in the U.S. Senate on March 29th, the President has promised to veto the measure when it comes to his desk.

"The President's main objection to the supplemental is that it includes time-limits on U.S. troops' tours of duty in Iraq. I don't believe he has a problem with the provisions I and other members of the Gulf Coast delegation included in the bill that will help

victims of Hurricane Katrina. Therefore, should the President veto the supplemental, Congress will simply rework the language regarding the Iraq war time table, and leave the Katrina provisions intact," Jefferson said.

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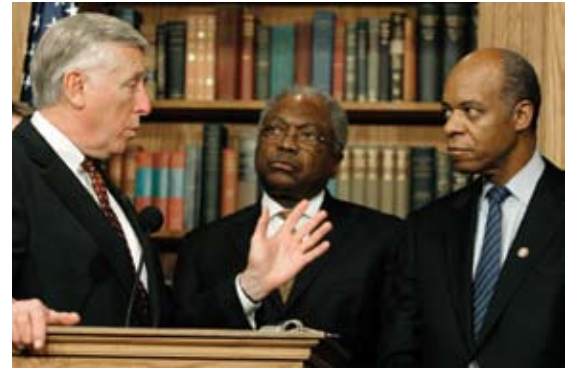


Working with House Leadership to Save Louisiana Funds it desperately needs

Congressman Jefferson stood alongside House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and House Majority Whip James Clyburn to endorse Representative Clyburn's "Hurricane Katrina and Rita Federal Match Relief Act of 2007." The legislation would waive Title IV of the "Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act," which would relieve Louisiana of a requirement to match up to 25% of federal expenses that were used for emergency assistance, to repair damaged facilities and to aid Louisiana victims. In addition to waiving the Stafford Act, the legislation would cancel required repayment of Community Disaster Loans (CDLs), which is traditionally done for states affected by natural disasters.

At the news conference, Jefferson said, "There has never been a disaster of such magnitude as Hurricane Katrina in the United States, so we've had no points of reference to go by in terms of how much money should be authorized for repairing and rebuilding the Gulf Coast."

Jefferson said, "...The most current figures for my state alone are astounding. We have the potential to save the state of Louisiana over \$1.8 billion dollars in monies that can be used toward rebuilding the state. According to officials from the Louisiana Governor's office, this figure includes nearly \$1 billion dollars in CDLs and \$886 million dollars in repayments of direct and individual assistance matching funds. Without waiving the Stafford Act, it clearly would be impossible for



Jefferson, House Majority Leader Hoyer and House Majority Whip Clyburn endorse "Hurricane Katrina and Rita Federal match Relief Act of 2007."

devastated Gulf Coast communities to repay even a small percentage of the total costs of repairs..."

"I believe all of this to be justified on the basis of the Army Corps of Engineers' responsibility to the Greater New Orleans area after admitting to constructing faulty levees which breached and caused the extensive flooding following Katrina."

Restoring the Health Care System in New Orleans

Congressman Jefferson has introduced four bills designed to help restore an accessible, thriving health care system to New Orleans and other communities recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The "Expanding, Rebuilding and Improving Access to Qualified Health Care Professionals in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Affected Areas Act of 2007" (HR 1599) has several elements. First, it would establish a health care workforce scholarship, grant and loan repayment program. Second, it would create a cultural competence training program for health care and emergency relief providers. And finally, it would diversify the health care workforce by increasing the number of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The "Tele-health and Medically Underserved and Advancement Act of 2007" (HR 1601) would increase the types of originating tele-health sites. It would strengthen tele-health services in rural

and underserved urban areas.

The "Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Environmental Justice Act of 2007" (HR 1602) would require the heads of federal agencies to improve disproportionately high and adverse effects of their programs on minority, low-income populations in the area affected by Katrina and Rita. It would also establish the "Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice", and the "Federal Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Environmental Justice Advisory Committee", which would provide independent advice to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The "Emergency Coverage during an Incident of National Significance Act of 2007" (HR 1603) would extend federal employee health insurance to certain individuals affected by an incident of national significance—such as Katrina. This bill would also make health benefit plans available to

individuals who—at the time of the incident—were residing or were employed in the area under certain conditions.

"These bills will significantly help revitalize New Orleans' ailing health care industry. A great percentage of health care professionals left the city after Katrina, and these measures would help lure some of them as well as new professionals back to New Orleans. We need more medical scholarships available. We need a more cost-effective way of handling constituents' medical records. And we definitely need more regulations to prevent discriminatory practices in recovery efforts for victims of nationally recognized disasters."

"After facing two historical catastrophic events, we must establish a preventive mechanism and make sure that health care for all Americans will be sufficient during and following incidents of national significance."

Bill to Extend Federal Help to New Orleans Small Businesses Passes in the U.S. House

Congressman Jefferson's bill aimed at helping struggling small businesses in devastated Gulf Coast communities passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 26th.

The "Disadvantaged Business Disaster Eligibility Act" (HR 1468) would give small businesses in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama an additional 18 months eligibility to participate in the 8(A) Disadvantaged Business Development Program. The 8(A) program is a nine year program for African-American, Hispanic, Asian and non-minority women owned firms. Since Hurricane Katrina

forced many small businesses to shut down for 18 months, these businesses were not able to continue participating in the 8(A) program. This bill would allow these businesses essentially to pick up where they left off, which is only fair for small business owners—some of whom are still struggling to get back in the black.

Congressman Jefferson said, "In August 2005, more than 77,000 small businesses were damaged or destroyed. Many of these businesses were participating in the 8(A) program. This bill makes up lost time for these business owners, who have an

uphill fight for recovery in New Orleans. This bill is about equity and fairness."

The House also passed the "Relief for Entrepreneurs: Coordination of Objectives and Values for Effective Recovery (RECOVER) Act (HR 1361) last month.

This measure will establish a centralized point of contact in the SBA for small business owners who needed emergency assistance after natural disasters, like Katrina—thus, eliminating confusion and weak "cross-agency" coordination.

Speaking Up for New Orleans Public Housing Residents who Want to Return Home

Congressman Jefferson contributed to and applauded the passage of HR 1227, the “Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007.”

HR 1227 is a measure to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low income families affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. The bill would specifically quicken the pace of repairing and rebuilding homes and rental housing in devastated communities. It would also ensure continued rental assistance to residents who have been able to move back to their communities as well as those who are still displaced after the major storms of 2005. Finally, the bill would reimburse communities and landlords that were generous in providing rental housing to evacuees.

Congressman Jefferson’s work and advocacy resulted in the inclusion in the bill of a provision requiring the Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct a survey of former New Orleans public housing residents to determine what number of them desire to return. This information will facilitate the repair and renovation of units to allow these residents to come back to the city.

Traveling with the President to Visit a New Orleans School

Congressman Jefferson traveled with the President on Air Force One to New Orleans to visit the Samuel J. Green Charter School in March.

“This trip back to the Gulf Coast with the President gave me time to discuss our slow-moving recovery with him on a one-on-one basis. I was able to emphasize the District’s most crucial needs—such as housing, the rebuilding of public infrastructure and getting aid to the city’s small business community.”

“I appreciate that the President recognizes the importance of revisiting New Orleans and other ailing cities along the Gulf Coast. I only hope that he is motivated to take more action to help in the recovery process after seeing how much is still left to be done, 18-months after Katrina and Rita struck. Our communities must be at the forefront of the administration’s agenda.”

Returning Critical Child Care Facilities to the New Orleans Area

Congressman Jefferson has introduced three bills aimed at reopening child care facilities in New Orleans and other cities along the Gulf Coast that have been closed since the hurricane season of 2005.

“The Emergency Child Care Lending Act for the Gulf Coast of 2007” would establish a temporary program under which emergency loans are made to small businesses that are non-profit child care businesses.

“The Emergency Gulf Coast Child Care Construction and Rebuilding Act” would provide for construction and rehabilitation of child care facilities in New Orleans.

And “The Emergency Child Care for the Gulf Coast Region Act of 2007” would help child care programs

in the disaster areas by giving priority to licensed early childhood facilities. It would also help them recruit, train and retain child care professionals and therefore rebuild the child care infrastructure.

“Obviously, one of the basic necessities for working parents is a respectable child care facility in their neighborhood. If there aren’t enough of those facilities in these devastated communities, parents have no choice but to look to other cities that are more accommodating to their needs. This has become a definitive problem for many hurricane evacuees who are still determined to come home. The passage of these bills would be just another step in helping them return to New Orleans.”

Leading the Fight for Local Small Businesses to Gain Federal rebuilding Contracts

Congressman Jefferson and other members of the U.S. House Committee on Small Business held a field hearing in New Orleans to determine whether local small businesses are getting fair treatment when competing against big companies for federal rebuilding contracts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

“Our small businesses have been overwhelmed not only by the physical damage caused by the storm, but also by inept policies and poorly executed strategies—including, to a large extent—being locked out of the federal contracting process in the aftermath of Katrina. Local small business owners whose companies have what it takes to rebuild their own communities deserve a fair shake at landing the jobs.”



Jefferson and Representative Charlie Melancon participate in House Small Business Committee meeting.

Working to Bring Teachers, Administrators Back to Our Schools

Congressman Jefferson is an original co-sponsor of House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller’s bill aimed at boosting the number of teachers and school administrators in New Orleans by offering them financial incentives. The legislation would also provide funding to schools and colleges in the city to assist them in paying off debt and help them eradicate other problems they’ve encountered since Hurricane Katrina struck. The proposed bill is called the “Revitalizing New Orleans by Attracting America’s Leaders (RENEWAAL) Act of 2007.”

“In the wake of Katrina, one of the biggest obstacles our city has faced is attracting professionals, like excellent teachers, to come back to New Orleans,” Jefferson said.

“Getting New Orleans’ education system working

again at full capacity should be one of Congress’ top priorities. Chairman Miller and I are determined to not only re-open all of New Orleans’ public schools, but we seek to improve their quality. This all starts with strong teachers. This bill would be a key incentive in luring such professionals to the Greater New Orleans area,” Jefferson said.

The RENEWAAL Act would award highly qualified teachers an annual bonus of up to \$10,000 if they commit to work in New Orleans for a three year period. Principals who have proven track-records in the public education system could qualify for an annual bonus of up to \$16,500. The bill would also assist educators with relocation and housing expenses. And finally, it would help higher education institutions in the New Orleans area retain faculty and students.

Getting Control of New Orleans' Crime Problem Requires more Federal Money

Congressman Jefferson testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security to request more federal funding to get a grip on New Orleans' violent crime problem which has elevated since Hurricane Katrina.



Jefferson, Council Member Oliver Thomas and Mayor C. Ray Nagin testify before a House Subcommittee investigating violent crime in New Orleans.

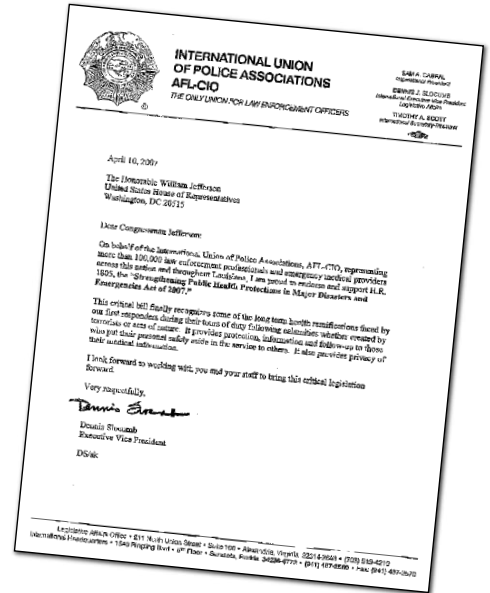
Jefferson asked for the reinstatement of the federally sponsored "Community Oriented Policing Squad" program (COPS). The program brought more training to New Orleans police, and allowed them to execute more foot patrols and other methods to cut crime in inflamed areas. The system was working in New Orleans, but the funds for COPS were cut by the Bush administration.

The Congressman also asked that the Drug Enforcement Administration focus more on New Orleans since drug use accounts for more than 60% of violent crime in the city. He also requested that the DEA also provide more treatment programs to fight

substance abuse. Finally, he believes the feds should help build a new crime lab for the city, since it was federally constructed levees that breached after Katrina, causing the massive flooding which

invaded and destroyed the old crime lab and other buildings that housed criminal records and evidence.

The International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO—which represents more than 100,000 law enforcement professionals and emergency medical providers throughout the US—proudly endorses a bill proposed by Congressman Jefferson called the "Strengthening Public Health Protections in Major Disasters and Emergencies Act of 2007."



A letter from Law enforcement endorses the "Strengthening Public Health Protections in Major Disasters and Emergencies Act."

Working to Provide more Accessible, Affordable Housing for New Orleans Residents

Congressman Jefferson testified in February before the House Financial Services Committee examining the Federal Housing Response to Katrina. He stressed the importance of providing affordable rental housing units for the tens of thousands of displaced residents who want to return to their homes.

Jefferson said, "The drowning of New Orleans was not caused by Hurricane Katrina itself. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers admits that its negligence in the design, construction and maintenance of our levees caused the destruction of homes, businesses and lives of our people."

"This federal government agency-made disaster has been made worse by the failure of the federal response from Congress and the President to use real numbers that match-up to the scope of the devastation of our area and that would actually pay the true cost of recovery... the help given has not matched-up to the help needed in real terms to fully rebuild and recover, given the federal responsibility for the losses."

Jefferson also pushed for the revamping of Louisiana's "Road Home" program. He said it's obvious that the state's system isn't working, and that bureaucracy and red tape are dominating and delaying Louisiana residents from getting back to their communities.



Welcoming a new business, "MarchandInk," to Gentilly on April 12.

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