



Senator Feinstein Joins with Democratic Senators to Introduce  
Katrina Emergency Relief Plan  
September 8, 2005

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) joined a group of Democratic Senators to introduce legislation Thursday to provide emergency aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Under the leadership of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-La.), the comprehensive Democratic package offers immediate assistance to enable the victims of Hurricane Katrina to obtain the health care coverage, housing, education and financial assistance needed in this time of crisis.

**“After a disaster such as Hurricane Katrina, the federal government has a profound obligation to help those in need,”** Senator Feinstein said. **“Right now, the victims of Hurricane Katrina need our help. Entire communities have been destroyed. Families have been torn apart. Many are still missing. Tens of thousands remain homeless. As the recovery proceeds, we in the Senate pledge to do everything in our power to help rebuild the shattered lives across the Gulf Coast.”**

The Democratic Katrina Emergency Relief Plan provides the critical medical coverage, housing, education and financial assistance needed to assist the Gulf Coast Victims.

**Key elements of the bill include:**

- **Providing Medical coverage:**
  - Provide Katrina survivors with health coverage through Medicaid wherever they are now;
  - Ease enrollment in states’ Medicaid programs and provide services to survivors without regard to assets or income;
  - Guarantee full federal funding for Medicaid for survivors in new states; and
  - Provide full federal funding for Medicaid programs in directly-affected states.
- **Housing for the homeless:**
  - Provide emergency housing vouchers for evacuees;
  - Expedite applications procedures so evacuees can find housing;
  - Provide time for Survivors to find work before tenant contributions are required; and
  - Identify federal facilities to house victims.
- **Keeping kids in the classroom:**
  - Award \$2,500 grants per student and other assistance to school districts receiving displaced students; and
  - Provide temporary assistance to early childhood education programs and agencies receiving displaced children.
- **Helping Americans get back on their feet:**

- Give the victims a moratorium of 180 days on any loan payments or other obligations to the federal government;
- Waive any limitations on total assistance to individuals;
- Provide mortgage and rental relief to protect Americans from foreclosure or eviction;
- Ease bankruptcy laws for victims; and
- Extend and expand unemployment insurance for victims.

In addition to Senators Feinstein, Reid, and Landrieu, co-sponsors of the bill include Senators Joseph Biden (D-Del.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), Carl Levin (D-Mich.), Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), Barack Obama (D-Ill.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.), John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), Ken Salazar (D-Colo.), and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.).

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