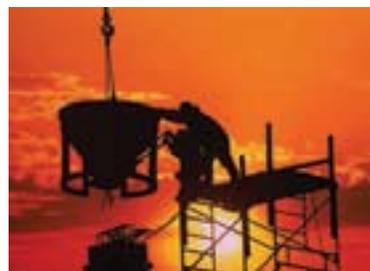


109th Congress

Securing America's Future



August, 2006 • State Work Period
<http://src.senate.gov>



SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Rick Santorum, Chairman

Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice Chairman

<http://gop.senate.gov>



SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Rick Santorum, Chairman
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice Chairman



109th Congress

August 3, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

During the August recess period, we have the opportunity to highlight our accomplishments in the Senate and our continued dedication to Securing America's Future. Senate Republicans remain committed to securing America's homeland, prosperity, and values.

We are dedicated to defending America and securing the homeland by completing the mission in Iraq, hunting down terrorists around the world, and securing our borders and ports. With the passage of the Defense Authorization bill, the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, and the Reauthorization of the Patriot Act, Senate Republicans have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to fighting to protect our nation. We have also increased significantly resources to protect our borders.

Senate Republicans also remain committed to Securing America's Prosperity. Republican pro-growth tax relief policies have fueled 3 years of job creation and nearly 5 years of overall economic growth. More Americans are working today than ever before, wages continue to rise, and federal tax revenues are surging, producing faster-than-expected deficit reduction progress. While the economy is making significant progress, we can still do more to help American families.

To sustain our strong economic growth and to help the American people with the cost of living, we will remain committed to lowering gas prices and securing America's energy independence through increasing American energy supplies and sources; supporting America's small businesses; securing affordable and accessible health care for all Americans; and keeping money in the pockets of American families by extending tax cuts and limiting spending. We are committed to securing America's competitiveness and creating new jobs through continued economic growth.

Our nation shares values that have defined the American character, helped those in need, protected our families, and shaped our society. As Republicans, we are committed to securing and upholding these values by supporting parents, keeping our children safe, and promoting healthy communities.

Please continue to communicate the vision and accomplishments of our Conference by supporting our positive agenda to Secure America's Future.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Santorum".

Rick Santorum
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay Bailey Hutchison".

Kay Bailey Hutchison
Vice-Chair

August 2006 Recess Themes:

Securing America's Future



WEEK 1: PROSPERITY

WEEK 2: VALUES

WEEK 3: HOMELAND

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 P	8 R	9 O	10 S	11 P	12 E
13	14	15 V	16 A	17 L	18 U	19 E
20	21 H	22 O	23 M	24 E	25 L	26 A
27	28 H	29 O	30 M	31 E		

Republicans Working to Secure America's Future

2006 Homestretch Goals



Secure America's Homeland

There have been no terrorist attacks on American soil since 9/11. Action by President Bush and the Republican Congress, through the effective use of military, intelligence and law enforcement resources, has led to the capture of many of al Qaeda's top leaders and substantially degraded the capability of their terrorist network. However, we need to strengthen our ports and borders, complete the mission in Iraq, and hunt down terrorists around the world. Congress also needs to continue to strengthen border security and enforce our immigration laws with worker verification.

Secure America's Prosperity

While the economy is getting stronger, with 5.4 million new jobs and consistent growth, we need to do more to help people with the cost of living. Congress needs to pass small business health plans to make health insurance more affordable; stop Democrat tax increases and balance the budget in 5 years; lower gas prices by decreasing dependence on foreign oil and develop alternative energy sources; and raise income levels for every American by creating the best educated and trained workforce in the world.

Secure America's Values

Our nation shares values that have defined the American character, protected our families, and shaped our society. Republicans are committed to protecting these traditional values by fostering a culture of life, protecting children, and upholding the rule of law.

Secure America's Homeland

- Strengthen port security with employee background checks
- Fund America's defense and homeland security programs
- Develop procedures for trying terrorist war criminals
- Fund border construction, interior enforcement and increase border agents
- Modernize the national emergency alert system to better respond to natural disasters and terrorist attacks
- Surveillance to find and stop terrorists

Secure America's Prosperity

- Small business health insurance pooling
- Budget reforms & spending reductions
- Permanent death tax reform
- Increase American natural gas & oil supply
- Keep our students competitive in science and technology, and provide a safer learning environment
- Enact pension worker retirement protections

Secure America's Values

- Confirm commonsense judges
- Child Custody Protection Act
- Sex Offender and Notification Act
- Ban internet gambling
- Lobbying Reform
- Ban fetal farming, fund adult stem cell research

Home Stretch Priorities



Securing America's Future



*Republicans are working to
build a future of hope, by:*

- Securing our homeland,
- Securing our prosperity, and
- Securing our values.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Homeland

We need to strengthen our ports and borders, complete the mission in Iraq, and hunt down radical Islamic terrorists around the world.

Securing America's Prosperity

Republican tax cuts have strengthened the economy with over 5.4 million new jobs and consistent growth, yet we can do more to reduce the cost of living and increase wages.

Securing America's Values

Republicans are committed to protecting America's shared values by fostering a culture of life, protecting children, and upholding the rule of law.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Homeland

Homestretch Message:

- There have been no terrorist attacks on American soil since 9/11. Action by President Bush and the Republican Congress, including the renewal of the Patriot Act, through the effective use of military, intelligence and law enforcement resources, has led to the capture of many of al Qaeda's top leaders and substantially degraded the capability of the worldwide network of radical Islamic terrorists.
- Sadly, Democrats do not have the vision to understand we are in a global war against radical Islamic terrorists or the resolve to win it. Instead, Democrats joined President Clinton in decimating our intelligence abilities, and have applauded as liberal newspapers exposed national security secrets.
- However, Republicans understand we must complete the mission in Iraq with victory and honor and hunt down radical Islamic terrorists around the world. We must strengthen border security, enforce our immigration laws with worker verification, and secure our ports with worker background checks.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Prosperity

Homestretch Message:

- While the economy is getting stronger, with 5.4 million new jobs and consistent growth, we need to do more to reduce the cost of living and improve the quality of life for all Americans. Republicans have passed national energy policy and offshore drilling that will increase America's oil and natural gas supply and lower energy costs.
- Unfortunately, Democrats have raised the cost of living by blocking commonsense health care and energy solutions while promising to raise taxes.
- Congress needs to pass small business health plans to make health insurance more affordable; stop Democrat tax increases and balance the budget in 5 years; lower gas prices by decreasing dependence on foreign oil and develop alternative energy sources; and raise income levels for every American by creating the best educated and trained workforce in the world. Republicans will also work to trim government waste by passing the line item veto.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Values

Homestretch Message:

- Our nation shares values that have defined the American character, protected our families, and shaped our society. Republicans have upheld their commitment to these values by passing legislation to protect child custody, creating and enforcing a national sex offenders registry, and standing strong to confirm many highly qualified judges.
- *However, Democrats oppose preserving a clear definition of marriage, are blocking child custody protections, and have obstructed the confirmation of fair judges.*
- Republicans are committed to protecting these traditional values by fostering a culture of life, protecting children, banning internet gambling and upholding the rule of law.

Democrats Obstruct ...



Democrats have raised the cost of living for American families by blocking energy solutions, hiking taxes and allowing energy prices to soar.

- Democrats attempt to raise taxes 7.5 cents on each gallon of gasoline in 1993.
- Democrats successfully raise taxes 4.3 cents on each gallon of gasoline in 1993.
- Democrats block President Bush's comprehensive national energy policy for 4 years.
- Democrats block increasing American oil supply by opening ANWR, voting against the measure 8 times over 15 years while gas prices steadily climbed.
- Democrats block expanding American refining capacity.
- Democrats block streamlining American boutique fuel bureaucracy that needlessly drives up the cost of gas.
- Democrats block environmentally friendly American deep sea energy exploration, which would lower the price at the pump and the cost of home heating and cooling.
- Democrats block environmentally friendly American nuclear energy.

Democrats Obstruct ...



Tax & Spend Democrats block tax relief for American families, oppose securing retirement for our seniors, and support policies that will kill American jobs.

- Democrats block permanent repeal of the Death Tax. This unfair double-tax destroys 100,000 jobs each year and punishes family farms for saving and leaving something for their children.
- Democrats block saving Social Security for America's seniors, and voted to continue raiding Social Security's trust fund to pay for wasteful spending.
- Democrats opposed the Deficit Reduction Act that eliminates wasteful spending will save taxpayers \$100 billion over the next 10 years.
- Democrats oppose Fair Trade agreements that create American jobs, help American businesses compete on a level playing field in the global economy, and lower costs to American consumers.
- Democrats block the line item veto which would give the President leverage to cut wasteful programs, government spending continues to increase and drain our economy of capital that can be used to create jobs and increase wages.

Democrats Obstruct ...



Democrats have raised the cost of living for Americans by blocking commonsense health care solutions for small businesses and families, while opposing prescription drug coverage for seniors.

- Democrats block small businesses from pooling together to purchase health insurance for American workers at lower costs.
- Democrats oppose the successful Medicare prescription drug program that is lowering costs for tens of millions of American seniors.
- Democrats block medical malpractice reform to stop frivolous lawsuits that are raising the cost of health care.

Democrats Obstruct ...



Democrats have argued among themselves about how fast to cut and run from the battlefield in the War on Islamic Fascism and fought to block tools necessary to defend freedom abroad and defend our nation here at home.

- Democrats urged retreat from Iraq, the central front in the War on Islamic Fascism, by voting for competing withdrawal measures.
- Democrats blocked reauthorization of the Patriot Act for months. Harry Reid boasted: “We killed the Patriot Act!”
- Democrats blocked nominees to critical national security positions, including U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, Department of Defense and Intelligence officials.
- Democrats block expediting our national missile defense system, attempting to CUT funding by \$50 billion this year while threats from Iran and North Korea rise.
- Democrats voiced opposition to NSA Terrorist Surveillance programs that are critical to stopping future attacks, leading to a partisan censure motion against the President.
- Democrats block efforts to end the failed practice of catch & release of illegal immigrants.
- Democrats block securing our nation’s ports by performing background checks on workers with access to these sensitive sites.

Democrats Obstruct ...



Democrats block education reforms that will improve our children's future. Democrats would rather cater to liberal teacher association donors than provide our children with the best training and skills to compete in today's economy.

- Democrats block empowering parents to choose the best schools their children.
- Democrats block expanding charter schools that specialize in preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow.
- Democrats block accountability and competition in public schools to ensure our children are receiving the best education.
- Democrats block the Higher Education Reauthorization that would lower costs, raise standards and increase access to college education.
- Democrats block the Workforce Investment Act that improves the lives of millions of our workers, and increases the strength of our businesses and communities.

“Do Nothing” Congress? Not According to Senior Senate Democrats



The following are statements from Senate Democratic Leadership and other senior members regarding legislative accomplishments of the 109th Congress. (Emphasis is added throughout).

Passage of Voting Rights Act (P.L. 109-246, enacted 07/27/06):

“...the Voting Rights Act isn’t just another bill. It’s paramount to the preservation of our democracy.”

—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Press Statement, July 20, 2006

“The Voting Rights Act is the most effective piece of civil rights legislation that we have ever passed.... A renewed, and reenergized Voting Rights Act is exactly the right formula to ensure the right to vote for future generations of Americans.”

—Senator Chuck Schumer
Press Statement, May 3, 2006

Funding for the Gulf Coast:

FY 2005 Emergency Supplemental (P.L. 109-61, enacted 09/02/05)

“I support President Bush for submitting this \$10.5 billion request, and I thank my colleagues for permitting us to take up and pass this important legislation tonight.”

—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Delivered Remarks on Senate Floor, September 1, 2005

FY 2006 Emergency Supplemental (P.L. 109-234, enacted 06/15/06)

“...for all of its problems, at the end of the day, this legislation is vitally important. We must support our troops. We must assist the Gulf Coast. We must tighten border security, and prepare for a possible bird flu outbreak.”

—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Delivered Remarks on Senate Floor, June 14, 2006

Passage of the Career and Technical Education Improvement Act (cleared for White House Signature on 7/28/06):

“One of our highest priorities in Congress is to expand educational opportunities for every American.... This reauthorization is a signal to the millions of Americans who benefit from career and technical education that the Federal Government understands how important these programs are.”

—Senator Ted Kennedy
Delivered Remarks on Senate Floor, July 26, 2006

“The Perkins program is extremely important—not just for the numbers of students it serves but for the communities that benefit from a better prepared workforce as a result of these programs.”

—Senator Hillary Clinton
Delivered Remarks on Senate Floor, July 26, 2006

Passage of Mine Safety Act (P.L. 109-236, enacted 06/15/06):

“I made a commitment that I would do everything I could to help improve our mine safety laws, and today’s bill represents an important bipartisan effort to protect American workers.”

—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Press Statement, May 24, 2006

“I commend my colleagues for addressing these issues in the largest overhaul of mine safety legislation in 30 years.”

—Senate Assistant Minority Leader Dick Durbin
Press Statement, May 24, 2006

Passage of Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act (P.L. 109-144, enacted 12/22/05):

“Mr. President, yesterday the Senate banking committee passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, and I look forward to the full Senate passing this legislation that is so vital to the economic well-being of this country.”

—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Press Statement, November 17, 2005

Passage of Child Protection Act (P.L. 109-248, enacted 07/27/06):

“This law is an important step to improve the safety of our nation’s children. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this significant legislation.”

—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Press Statement, July 27, 2006

Passage of USA PATRIOT Reauthorization Act (P.L. 109-178, enacted 03/09/06):

“Today, we give the Government the tools it needs to help protect our national security, while placing sensible checks on the arbitrary exercise of Executive power.”

—Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Delivered Remarks on Senate Floor, March 2, 2006

Passage of Combat Meth Act of 2005, provision of USA PATRIOT Reauthorization Act (P.L. 109-178, enacted 03/09/06):

“Mr. President, I am pleased that this conference agreement includes important provisions which will provide critical new tools and resources to help combat methamphetamine...”

—Senate Assistant Minority Leader Dick Durbin
Delivered Remarks on Senate Floor, March 2, 2006

Passage of the Detainee Treatment Act, provision of FY 2006 Defense Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-148, 12/30/05):

“It is vitaly important that Congress affirm our nation’s very important, long-standing obligation not to engage in torture or other cruel treatment.”

—Senate Assistant Minority Leader Dick Durbin
Press Statement, October 6, 2005

109th Senate Accomplishments: Securing America's Homeland



The biggest issue facing our country and our children's future is a war. Not, as so many describe it, the War on Terror. Not the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the world war, which at its heart is just like the previous three global struggles.

We have mobilized to win other world wars. We fought against European tyrants and their allies, from the Kaiser to Hitler to Lenin, Stalin, and their heirs. We fought them because we knew that our survival was a stake. The tyrants would never stop attacking until they had defeated us, or we had defeated them.

Our enemy today is doing his utmost to kill us, because of who we are, wherever we are, at home or overseas. That is why we will do whatever we can – including diplomatic, intelligence, financial, and law enforcement activities – to protect the homeland, disrupt terrorist operations, and deprive our enemies of what they need to operate and survive.

- \$74.6 billion in FY 2006 emergency funding for troops fighting the war, border security, and hurricane recovery
- PATRIOT Act reauthorization (prevention of future terrorist attacks)
- \$453.28 billion in FY 2006 war funding
- \$82.57 billion for FY 2006 military construction and Veterans Affairs
- \$31.86 billion for FY 2006 homeland security, including increased funding for border security
- Service members life insurance (ensuring that military survivors are cared for)
- \$82.04 billion for ongoing military operations, postwar construction efforts (FY 2005)
- Defense authorization for programs in FY 2007, including \$50.0 billion for ongoing military operations
- Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act (protects dignity and honor at funeral services)
- Port Security (CFIUS Reform)
- North Korea Nonproliferation Act

109th Senate Accomplishments: Securing America's Prosperity



Jobs/Economy:

- 5.4 million new jobs and low 4.6% unemployment rate – 34 consecutive months of job gains
- 19 consecutive quarters of economic (GDP) growth
- Tax increase prevention (\$70 billion in extended tax relief)
- Froze non-defense, non-homeland security spending (2007 budget resolution)
- Cut entitlement spending growth to save taxpayers \$100 billion over 10 years (Deficit Reduction Act)
- Lawsuit abuse reform for class action and gun liability
- Bankruptcy reform protection for small businesses and lower costs for consumers
- Retirement security for American workers (Pension Security Act)
- Free trade agreements with Central America and Bahrain

Energy/Conservation:

- Comprehensive energy policy (alternative energy sources, efficiency/conservation)
- American oil and natural gas offshore drilling (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act)

Health Care:

- Pandemic flu preparedness
- Adult stem cell therapy (cord blood)
- Fetus farming prohibition
- Alternative stem cell therapy
- Veterans medical services
- Patient safety/preventing medical errors
- Health information technology (electronic medical records)
- Genetic information nondiscrimination
- Combat methamphetamine

Education:

- SMART (Pell) grants
- SAFE schools (FBI background checks)
- Teacher incentive fund (raising student achievement)
- Perkins loan reauthorization (career and tech programs)
- Workforce Investment Act (high-skill job training/competitiveness)

109th Senate Accomplishments: Securing America's Values



Signed into Law

1. Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act – P.L. 109-235

This law reflects the Senate's commitment to protecting children and families from being exposed to offensive material, and encourages media outlets to provide additional family-tiered programming by increasing penalties for transmission of obscene or indecent material and profane language for television and radio broadcasters.

2. Cord Blood

Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-129

Research has demonstrated that cord-blood stem cells can be effectively used to treat several diseases, including leukemia, Fanconi anemia, and sickle cell disease. This law provides for the collection of human umbilical cord blood to be used for treatment, transplant, and research. Additionally, an advisory council will be created to coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that donated cord blood not appropriate for transplant use will be made available for use in peer-reviewed research. The collection and use of umbilical-cord-blood stem cells after child birth causes no harm to mother or child.

3. Fetal Farming

Fetus Farming Prohibition Act of 2006- P.L. 109-242

This Act amends the Public Health Service Act to prohibit any person or entity involved in interstate commerce from soliciting or knowingly acquiring, receiving, or accepting a donation of a human fetus that was deliberately provided for such donation; or accepting tissue or cells obtained from a human embryo or fetus that was gestated in the uterus of a nonhuman animal.

4. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization of 2005 – P.L. 109-164

This law reflects America's commitment to fighting human trafficking, a crime in which human beings, including children, are essentially bought and sold as slaves. This bill will assist authorities in investigating and prosecuting traffickers and customers, provide grants to state and local law enforcement, and provide services to victims.

5. Marriage Penalty Relief

Tax Relief Act of 2005 (Tax Reconciliation) – P.L. 109-222

Marriage is one of the leading anti-poverty strategies, and married couples cannot afford the painful backdoor tax increase imposed when they file a joint tax return. This law prevents a scheduled tax increase by extending the tax relief provisions until 2010 to protect families from significant tax increases.

6. Child Tax Credit

Tax Relief Act of 2005 (Tax Reconciliation) – P.L. 109-222

The Child Tax Credit is an important tax credit that families may claim on their federal tax returns. For many American families, this child tax credit will lower the amount of taxes given to the federal government, ensuring that more money stays in the pockets of the American people. This law limits the tax burden on families with children by extending tax breaks to families through 2010.

7. Healthy Marriage/Responsible Fatherhood

Deficit Reduction Act (Spending Reconciliation) – P.L. 109-171

The DRA provides grants including \$100 million annually for the promotion of healthy marriage initiatives, and \$50 million annually for responsible fatherhood programs to strengthen two-parent marriages, reduce poverty, and improve child well-being.

8. Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006- P.L. 109-248

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act expands the national sex offender registry by integrating the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensuring that law enforcement has access to the same information across the United States. This law also strengthens federal penalties for crimes against children by imposing tough mandatory minimum penalties for the most serious crimes such as sex trafficking of children and prostitution. This law also makes it harder for sex predators to reach children on the internet and creates a new national child abuse registry and ensures a safe learning environment for children through background checks.

Passed Senate

1. Judges

The 109th Congress has ensured fair, up-or-down votes and confirmed nominations for Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Senate Republicans have also confirmed 14 Judges to the Court of Appeals and 34 Judges to the District Court. The vacancy rate in the federal courts is now just 4.9 percent, lower than it has been in more than 20 years.

2. CARE Act- S. 1780

The CARE Act provides 83 million Americans who do not itemize the opportunity to deduct a portion of their charitable contributions, representing more than two-thirds of American tax filers. The CARE Act provides incentives for individuals to give tax-free contributions from their IRAs for charitable purposes and also provides incentives to give land for conservation purposes.

Obstructed

1. Child Custody- S. 403

The Child Custody Protection Act (CCPA) changes no state laws, but will ensure that statutes requiring parental notification or consent in a child's abortion are honored. The legislation does exempt parental involvement if the girl's life is in danger and for other extreme circumstances. It also creates a new federal crime if someone who has committed incest with a minor takes her across the state line for an abortion. The bill makes it a federal crime to circumvent state parental involvement laws by taking a minor across state lines for an abortion. (Passed Senate, Obstructed by Democrats from going to Conference)

2. The Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act, S. 2754

This Act amends the Public Health Service Act to require the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct and support basic and applied research to develop techniques for the isolation, derivation, production, or testing of stem cells that have pluripotent or embryonic-like qualities.

Recognizing that supporters of the bill come from varying perspectives on the legitimacy of embryonic stem cell research, the bill contains a rule of construction saying that nothing in this bill shall be construed to affect any policy, guideline, or regulation regarding embryonic stem cell research, human cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer, or any other research not specifically authorized.

The bill also directs the NIH to provide guidance on this research, including prioritizing research with the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefit; determining the extent to which specific techniques may require additional basic or animal research to ensure that any research involving human cells is consistent with the purpose of the bill; and taking into account the techniques outlined by the President's Council on Bioethics and any other techniques and research.

Despite the unanimous support from Democrats in the Senate, House Democrats came together to vote against this bill.

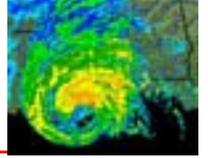
3. Defense of Marriage, S.J. Res. 1

As the core social institution of our society, marriage in the United States should be defined as it has been in every civilization around the world for thousands of years: marriage is the union between a man and a woman. The definition of marriage is far too important to leave open to interpretation by unelected activist courts. In response to recent efforts by activist judges to experiment with this vital social institution Senate Republicans put forward an amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman and leaving all other questions of partnership, civil unions or contractual relationships to state legislatures.

4. Flag Amendment, S.J. Res. 12

Senate Democrats obstructed passage of the Flag Protection Amendment by a vote of 66-34, at a time when the men and women of our armed forces are bravely fighting for freedom. In 1989 the United States Supreme Court ‘discovered’ a constitutional ‘right’ to burn the American flag in the case of *Texas v. Johnson*—overturning 200 years of precedent. The amendment simply gives congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. The flag is not only the physical symbol of our nation, but also of our nation’s values.

Providing Relief To Americans In Gulf States Affected By Hurricanes Katrina and Rita



Hurricane Relief (Provision of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006) – P.L. 109-234

This provision provides an additional \$19.8 billion to meet the needs of the individuals and families in regions devastated by gulf coast hurricanes.

Judicial Branch Employee Participation in Federal Leave Transfer Program for Disasters and Emergencies – P.L. 109-229

This bill would allow employees of the Federal Judiciary branch of government to participate in emergency-leave transfer programs for disasters and emergencies.

Hurricane Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-176

This law provides additional assistance for individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina by extending disaster unemployment benefits to 39 weeks from 26 weeks and extending the period during which unemployed workers may apply for assistance. The law also provides for reimbursement of communities for expenses incurred while housing individuals displaced by the hurricane.

Temporary Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Katrina Areas (Provision in the Deficit Reduction Act) – P.L. 109-171

This provision provides a temporary increase in FMAP percentages for states affected by Hurricane Katrina. States will receive 100-percent FMAP reimbursement for Medicaid and SCHIP assistance for individuals who, during the week prior to Hurricane Katrina, were living in one of the parishes of Louisiana or counties of Mississippi and Alabama specified in the bill. Costs directly attributable to related administrative activities would also be fully reimbursed.

Coastal Disaster Assistance (Provision in the Deficit Reduction Act) – P.L. 109-171

This provision provides an additional \$200 million to assist states and local Indian tribes affected by hurricanes and other coastal disasters.

Third Emergency Katrina Supplemental (Provision in the Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-148

This law provides \$29 billion in aid for victims of Hurricane Katrina, including \$3 billion in funding to help strengthen Louisiana levees, \$6.2 billion in Community Development Block Grants to help Gulf Coast communities rebuild, and \$1.6 billion in funding to school districts educating students displaced by hurricanes. Of this funding, \$23.40 billion is offset by reallocations from the Federal Emergency Management Disaster Relief Fund, and the remaining Katrina funding is offset by various rescissions and an across-the-board-cut of one percent that applies to most discretionary accounts.

Elementary and Secondary Education Recovery Act (Provision in the Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-148

This provision authorizes \$1.66 billion in funds to provide aid for states affected by Hurricane Katrina to restart school operations, provide temporary emergency aid for displaced students, and assist homeless youth. This law also permits the Secretary of Education to extend deadlines under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for those affected by Katrina or Rita.

Katrina Higher Education Relief (Provision in the Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-148

This provision would provide waivers for certain student loans for students who were attending institutions of higher learning in the Gulf Coast region affected by Hurricane Katrina. It also provides assistance under the Higher Education Act to students and institutions affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Coast Guard Hurricane Relief Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-141

This law authorizes the Coast Guard to extend the duration of a license or certificate for Merchant Seamen in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, or those whose records were destroyed due to flooding in New Orleans. It also extends inspection compliance certificates for vessels last inspected in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, and it allows Coast Guard personnel who served on active duty for 30 days in areas affected by Katrina to retain accumulated leave, which otherwise would have been forfeited.

Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-135

This law creates a Gulf Opportunity Zone in the region affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma to encourage businesses to rebuild in the region and provide employment opportunities. In particular the law provides tax provisions such as a bonus depreciation and enhanced small business expensing, and it also provides for the issuance of tax exempt bonds to help finance reconstruction costs.

Study and Report on Catastrophic Hurricane Evacuation Plans (S.A. 2168, to H.R. 3058, the Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-115

This law provides \$1 million in funding for the Departments of Transportation and Homeland Security to conduct a joint review to assess catastrophic hurricane evacuation plans and submit their findings to Congress by June 1, 2006.

Funds for Louisiana for Increased Traffic due to Hurricanes (Provision included in the Conference Report to Accompany the Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-115

The conference agreement provides \$1.5 million to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to establish a grant program for implementation of plans to alleviate traffic congestion and address increased transportation demands for parish and municipal governments that experienced a significant spike in population due to an influx of hurricane evacuees.

Additional Forecasters for the National Hurricane Center (Provision included in the Conference Report to accompany the Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations bill, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-108

This provision provides \$500,000 in funding to the National Hurricane Center for the purpose of hiring four new hurricane forecasters.

National Flood Insurance Program Further Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-106

This law increases the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from \$3.5 billion to \$18.5 billion through FY 2008 to pay the National Flood Insurance Program's flood damage claims through the next few months.

Hurricane Katrina Unemployment Relief (Provision in the QI, TMA & Abstinence Programs Extension and Hurricane Katrina Unemployment Relief Act) – P.L. 109-91

This law transfers money from the federal trust fund to the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama unemployment trust funds to help those states pay unemployment benefits.

Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-88

This law will allow up to \$750 million of the funds appropriated under P.L. 109-62, the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Hurricane Katrina, to be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program to be used to assist local governments in providing essential services.

Emergency Airport Improvement Project Grants in Aid – P.L. 109-87

This law authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to provide airport development project grants to support infrastructure repair projects for public-use airports in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act – P.L. 109-86

This law authorizes the Secretary of Education during FY 2006 to reallocate campusbased student aid funds to institutions of higher learning in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas, or institutions that have accepted students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. The law also waives requirements for matching funds that are normally imposed on institutions and students.

Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-82

This law empowers the Department of Education to waive the non-federal share for states affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that seek unused FY 2005 funds for vocational rehabilitation. Additional funds may be used for supplemental training to help individuals with disabilities gain the necessary skills to help with the reconstruction and redevelopment of impacted communities.

Student Aid Waiver – P.L. 109-78

This law extends the authority of the Secretary of the Department of Education to waive student loan rules during a war or national emergency until September 30, 2007.

Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-73

This law provides tax relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina and contains provisions to encourage charitable contributions toward the relief effort in the affected region. Specifically, the law allows affected individuals to access their retirement savings without incurring penalties for early withdrawals, to deduct 100 percent of casualty losses, and to exclude from tax certain relief assistance. The act also provides incentives for businesses in the region to hire displaced workers and additional tax incentives to support regional employment and reconstruction, with an emphasis on encouraging displaced residents to return to the affected areas.

Flexibility for Displaced Workers Act – P.L. 109-72

This law allows for greater flexibility in the use of National Emergency Grants to provide temporary disaster relief and training for individuals who have relocated to regions outside of the Katrina-affected areas and to those who assist in disaster recovery.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-68

This law makes immediate payment of TANF funds for the first quarter of FY 2006 to all states, and makes additional TANF funds available to states devastated by Hurricane Katrina by converting an existing loan fund into a contingency fund for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. It holds states harmless for costs incurred to immediately assist evacuees, provides states with flexibility to spend unused TANF funds for families impacted by the hurricane, waives program rules for hurricane victims receiving shortterm TANF assistance, and waives penalties on states that resulted from efforts to support families impacted by the hurricane.

Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act – P.L. 109-67

This law authorizes the Secretary of Education to waive certain repayment requirements for students receiving campus-based federal grant assistance efforts if they were residing in, employed in, or attending an institution of higher education located in a major disaster area, or their attendance was interrupted because of the disaster.

Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act – P.L. 109-66

This law authorizes the Secretary of Education to waive certain repayment requirements for hurricane-affected students receiving federal Pell Grants. This waiver is necessary because under current law, Pell Grant recipients who are forced to withdraw from classes due to a natural disaster are required to repay any Pell Grant funds used to pay for school expenses, or they will be barred from enrolling in future classes.

Income Exclusion of Flood Insurance Mitigation Payments – P.L. 109-64

This law allows for the exclusion of federal flood mitigation assistance from consideration as income or a resource for purposes of determining an applicant's eligibility for certain federal income-assistance or resourced-based programs.

Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-63

This law authorizes courts displaced by Hurricane Katrina to operate outside of the courts' regular circuit or district.

Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 – P.L. 109-62

This law provides an additional \$51.8 billion in emergency funding to continue recovery and relief efforts in the areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 – P.L. 109-61

This law provides \$10.5 billion in emergency funding to provide immediate assistance to Gulf States affected by Hurricane Katrina. Specifically, this law provides \$10 billion to the Department of Homeland Security for disaster relief and \$500 million to the Department of Defense for operations and maintenance.

Katrina Education Reimbursement (S. 1764) – Passed Senate

This bill would allow the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to transfer funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Department of Education in order to provide assistance to schools that have accepted students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Gulf Coast Emergency Water Infrastructure Assistance Act (S. 1709) – Passed Senate

This bill would allow states to provide subsidies and loan forgiveness for water treatment and water quality projects related to Hurricane Katrina, for a two-year period, from funds allocated to states from the revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The bill also allows states to provide funds to water treatment plants that are not included under the Safe Drinking Water Act for up to two years, and authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to test drinking water from private wells that may be contaminated as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Disaster Recovery and Debris Removal Act of 2005 (S. 939) – Passed Senate

This bill would authorize the payment to disaster relief applicants of up to 50 percent of the Federal share for which that applicant is eligible. This assistance will expedite the process of clearing and removing hurricane-related debris from public access roads and private property.

A resolution to permit the solicitation of donations in Senate buildings for the relief of victims of Hurricane Katrina (S. Res. 235) – Passed Senate

This bill allows Senators or Senate employees to solicit another Senator or Senate employee for non-monetary donations for the relief of victims of Hurricane Katrina and to work with nonprofit organizations to deliver those donations.



EMPOWERING FAMILIES IN NEED

Senate Anti-Poverty Agenda

WORK,
INVESTMENT, AND
NEIGHBORHOODS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

W O R K

- ✓ Welfare Reform Reauthorization, including Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood initiatives (Deficit Reduction Act—P.L. 109-171)
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (extensions/reforms pending in “Trifecta”)
- ✓ The Family Opportunity Act (Deficit Reduction Act—P.L. 109-171)

I N V E S T M E N T

- Individual Development Accounts
- Low-Income Housing Assistance
- ✓ Marriage Penalty Relief & Child Tax Credit (Tax Reconciliation—P.L. 109-222)

N E I G H B O R H O O D S

- CARE Act (significant portions, including IRA Rollover pending in Pensions)
- Faith-Based as Full Partners (partial—Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood initiatives)
- Hunger
- Charitable Liability Reform (partial)
- Congressional Commission on Expanding Social Service Delivery Options
- Prisoner Re-entry/Mentoring Children