



NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), I write to support the **“Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025” (H.R. 4669)**. We thank you, Ranking Member Stanton and Rep. Webster (R-FL) for introducing this bill and urge the House of Representatives to move quickly on this important legislation. This bipartisan bill will restore the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an independent agency and implement a host of improvements that will allow the agency to respond faster, fairer, and with increased flexibility and efficiency to the needs of all disaster survivors across the country.

NLIHC is dedicated solely to achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice. NLIHC leads the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) of more than 900 national, state, and local organizations, including many working directly with disaster-impacted communities and with first-hand experience recovering after disasters. The DHRC works to ensure that federal disaster recovery efforts reach all the lowest-income and most marginalized survivors.

Millions of disaster survivors across the nation face catastrophic, life-threatening, extreme weather events, including stronger hurricanes, extreme heat, unprecedented drought, and severe wildfires. In 2024 and already in 2025, there have been a total of forty-two separate billion-dollar disasters, including extreme hurricanes spanning North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee, as well as devastating wildfires in California, severe flooding across Texas, and tornado outbreaks spanning the Southern United States, leaving behind devastated households and communities across the country. Our country’s emergency management system must be able to meet the challenge of helping these communities recover from these disasters while helping prepare for those in the future. The reforms laid out in the “FEMA Act of 2025” would help make this possible.

If enacted, the “FEMA Act of 2025” would institute multiple reforms to agency programs that will better ensure that disaster survivors – whether they are renters, homeowners, or are experiencing homelessness – can access

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the assistance they need to fully recover; all while encouraging states to take greater steps to address their disaster risk. Many of these reforms have been supported for years by the DHRC, including:

- Restoring FEMA as an independent agency, reporting directly to the president as a cabinet-level agency.
- Making it easier for individuals without a fixed address, like individuals experiencing homelessness, to access post-disaster housing assistance.
- Increasing the duration of FEMA assistance to disaster-impacted households.
- Creating a unified disaster assistance application for all federal disaster assistance programs.
- Directing FEMA to create clear and understandable notices regarding program eligibility and application denials.
- Removing penalties for disaster survivors who utilize crowdfunding sites like GoFundMe for disaster expenses.
- Removing barriers to accessing FEMA’s Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) program to ensure greater access to post-disaster sheltering in hotels.
- Requiring that disaster funds are spent transparently to help ensure that every community receives the assistance it is eligible for.

In the past, disaster survivors have often been prevented from accessing lifesaving assistance due to bureaucratic hurdles. Without this assistance, they face higher housing costs, displacement from their communities, and, at worst, homelessness. Removing these barriers via the “FEMA Act of 2025” would help ensure that disaster survivors can fully recover while remaining in their homes and their communities. Again, we heartily thank the sponsors for the introduction of this important, bipartisan, legislation and urge the House of Representatives to quickly pass the “FEMA Act of 2025” to help ensure that all disaster survivors can fully recover.

Sincerely,



Renee Willis
President and CEO
National Low Income Housing Coalition