

SUMMARY OF THE LEAHY/SCHUMER AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY DISASTER APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The Leahy/Schumer amendment provides **\$16.7 billion for critical relief and recovery assistance** to communities and families impacted by hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, volcanoes, and other natural disasters to help *all* Americans affected by disaster.

The amendment will help states impacted by Hurricanes Michael and Florence, the California wildfires, volcanic eruptions in Hawaii, typhoons in the Pacific, and other natural disasters in 2018.

In addition, **new funding is included to address recent disasters in 2019**, including the Southeast tornadoes and the flooding in the Midwest. The amendment provides \$1.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$1 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program in new funding to help these communities rebuild and makes them eligible for other aid in the package.

The amendment also includes critical aid for Puerto Rico, which was devastated by two Category 5 Hurricanes in 2017, and several states also impacted by 2017 disasters. The bill provides:

- \$610 million for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and American Samoa;
- \$431 million in additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to help Puerto Rico, Florida, California, Georgia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to cover the FEMA cost-share on relief projects (the President has refused to waive the FEMA cost-share for poverty-stricken Puerto Rico);
- Language mandating HUD speed up release of billions in CDBG funding from the last disaster bill, much of which is for Puerto Rico (the Administration has been unnecessarily holding this money from being released); and
- \$250 million for state revolving funds that would help Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to rebuild damaged water systems and ensure they are resilient for future storms (similar to aid offered in the wake of other disasters).

The bill also includes Medicaid funding for the Northern Mariana Islands, and a cost match waiver for the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, whose Medicaid programs face serious shortages due to increased need.

The Leahy/Schumer amendment provides:

- \$6.1 billion for infrastructure and economic and community development;
- \$2.2 billion for resiliency funding to mitigate damage from future disasters that are accelerating in number due to climate change;
- \$3.8 billion in assistance to farmers and rural communities;
- \$720 million to repay non-fire accounts for wildland fire activities;
- \$536 million for social services, mental health, education, and dislocated worker activities;
- \$2.3 billion for the Department of Defense, Coast Guard, Department of Justice, and Veterans Affairs to repair and reconstruct damaged facilities, and the Department of Interior to repair damage to federal lands; and
- \$1.1 billion in critical assistance for Puerto Rico.