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While these authority changes to the single-family housing program are not limited to disaster situations, they will be very helpful in assisting families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

H.R. 3895 will help ensure that housing assistance continues to be available to those of the neediest individuals and families in the rural gulf region, who have already suffered greatly in the aftermath of the hurricanes.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and, Madam Speaker, point out that the committee, once again, has worked effectively through these issues, these three suspension calendar votes, in anticipation, as the gentleman from Louisiana pointed out, and my friend from Massachusetts mentioned, with a goal of looking at a long-term solution to this problem that is one that will not go away and will be over a period of years, as the gentleman from Louisiana pointed out.

I want to say to the members of the committee and to the House that this committee stands ready to do what is necessary to bring relief to those regions in a fiscally responsible manner. I have every reason to think we will do exactly that.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a member of the committee.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank our ranking member for yielding. Also I want to thank the ranking member on the Housing Subcommittee for her leadership and for really trying to make sure that these bills before us today have bipartisan support and have become better bills as they move through this process.

People displaced by this horrible disaster deserve clean, safe and decent housing. They should be provided with the opportunity to return home as quickly and as safely as possible. Yet, I do not believe these bills accomplish this goal.

HUD has not received, first of all, nearly enough authority or funding to do what is necessary to provide for the Katrina survivors. First, nowhere do we acknowledge the inadequate response to date of the administration or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the housing crisis in the gulf.

Secondly, there is no additional funding in any of these bills for the CDBG or emergency housing vouchers for families affected by Hurricane Katrina. There is not enough money at HUD, and we should not redirect funding that is already inadequate in one account, to move it to another account. Indeed, we need more resources to accomplish what we need to accomplish. The bottom line is, there needs to be new money for housing, and we need it now.

Finally, there is not enough thought given to prohibiting the use of substandard housing for Katrina survivors or for the creation of affordable hous-

ing construction programs for new, safe and affordable housing. Although these bills waive the pre-inspection process for about 6 months for Katrina survivors in terms of their housing needs, I really worry that people will find themselves living in substandard and dilapidated housing if we do not monitor this very closely.

What I find also very striking about these bills is that there are no measures to ensure that Katrina survivors can return to the gulf region without fear of housing discrimination from landlords or lenders. There are some serious housing policy issues at stake in these bills. There should be more opportunity for debate and thoughtful legislation.

Madam Speaker, the reality is, these bills do very little for the people who are relying on us to help. Having traveled to Houston and having talked to Katrina survivors; I went to the shelters, like many, and I have heard firsthand the needs and seen firsthand their pain. I know very well that housing, providing affordable decent safe housing, is very central to their recovery.

When I think about how much Katrina survivors have lost, compared to what this administration is willing to sacrifice in their misguided budget priorities, it falls way short, I am sorry to say, of what we should be doing. We need to provide housing bills that create new funding for emergency, flexible, section 8 vouchers. We need to increase the funding and authority of HUD to truly help Katrina survivors and also to take steps to eradicate poverty. Effective housing strategies with full funding would help to begin to address these underlying systemic issues which surface during this tragedy.

I would like to thank our housing leaders again, Congressman BARNEY FRANK and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, for attempting to make these bills better. I welcome the opportunity to continue to work with my colleagues to authorize and to fund significant Katrina housing legislation in the near future.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3895, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3895.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA EMERGENCY RELIEF CDBG FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3896) to temporarily suspend, for communities affected by Hurricane Katrina, certain requirements under the community development block grant program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3896

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hurricane Katrina Emergency Relief CDBG Flexibility Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC SERVICES CAP.

(a) UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) SUSPENSION FOR DIRECTLY AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.—The percentage limitations under paragraph (8) of section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(8)) on the amount of assistance under title I of such Act that may be used for the provision of public services by a unit of general local government or Indian tribe that is, or is within, a directly affected community (as such term is defined in section 4 of this Act) shall not apply with respect to any of fiscal years 2005 through 2008 for such unit of general local government or Indian tribe.

(2) AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND FOR INDIRECTLY AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.—For any indirectly affected community (as such term is defined in section 4 of this Act), the Secretary may waive the applicability, for such period during the fiscal years referred to in paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate, of the percentage limitations under paragraph (8) of section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(8)) on the amount of assistance under title I of such Act that may be used for the provision of public services by a unit of general local government or Indian tribe that is, or is within, such indirectly affected community. In determining the period for which to waive such limitations, the Secretary shall take into consideration the specific economic circumstances of each such indirectly affected community.

(b) NONENTITLEMENT COMMUNITIES.—Assistance provided under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 may be used for the provision of public services in any directly affected community (as such term is defined in section 4 of this Act) without regard to the percentage limitations under paragraph (8) of section 105(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(8)) on the amount of assistance that may be used statewide in non-entitlement communities for such activities and any such amounts so used in any directly affected community shall not be considered for purposes of such statewide limitations.