

and of their protective gear, tools, equipment, and vehicles. Workers and volunteers must be trained in the importance of meticulous personal hygiene in the presence of toxics and must be provided with appropriate decontamination and sanitary facilities.

7. Provide Medical Surveillance: Provision must be made for early detection and treatment of occupational, environmental, and psychological illnesses. To ignore the medical needs of potentially exposed workers and residents is asking them to be guinea pigs in a long-term experiment the consequences of which remain unknown. All public and private sector rescue, response, and cleanup workers, including volunteers, should be entered into a centralized database to facilitate medical surveillance.

8. Protect Vulnerable Workers: Special consideration must be given to protection of immigrant and temporary workers, who reportedly are being recruited in large numbers. In 9/11 response efforts, immigrant and temporary workers were the workers least likely to be provided with proper training and respiratory protection, and were the workers least likely to have medical insurance. As a result, they incurred high rates of illness without having access to medical treatment.

9. Adopt Uniform Re-occupancy Standards: EPA must work with local governments to ensure that a protective health and safety standard for re-occupancy applies uniformly to all communities and also is sensitive to the needs of vulnerable populations. EPA has indicated that it will permit local authorities to determine re-occupancy criteria, but it is critical to ensure that all re-occupancy occurs according to standards that are adequately protective of public health.

A cleanup of this magnitude and complexity has never been undertaken. While we support proceeding with the cleanup and recovery with dispatch, protection of the health of clean-up workers and of the public at large must be given the highest priority.

Endorsing organizations signatures available at www.nycosh.org.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the managers of the bill jointly submit this statement to explain and clarify the intent of certain provisions contained within the legislation.

With respect to amendments made to the Occupational Safety and Health, OSH, Act in Section 311 of the legislation, the managers recognize the historic and unique nature of this disaster inflicted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and is taking the extraordinary step of authorizing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, to use volunteers in light of the historic scope of that devastation.

Section 311 of the bill is intended to allow OSHA to utilize qualified safety professionals as volunteers to assist in a variety of projects targeting health and safety identified by OSHA. It is the managers' expectation and intent that these volunteers would be qualified by virtue of experience, and would need little additional training based on their professional work experience or other recognized safety training prior to being deployed in needed areas.

With respect to section 312's providing authority to the Secretary to purchase and distribute equipment and supplies to public or private entities engaged in projects related to worker safety, it is the intent of the managers that these funds be used to assist in relief and recovery efforts, and not be used to pay private entities to comply with preexisting requirements or obligations under the OSH Act.

Finally, with respect to title III, subtitle A, the Pension Flexibility for Displaced Workers Act of 2005, it is the managers' expectation and intention that the Secretary will exercise the authority provided under that section judiciously and upon careful consideration of the appropriateness of any waiver, suspension, or exemption authorized thereunder.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to offer relief to the families, workers, and schools in the gulf coast region working to rebuild after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

I'd like to thank the author of this bill, my friend from Louisiana, Representative JINDAL, for his tireless efforts on behalf of his constituents who have been through so much.

This bill, the Hurricane Regulatory Relief Act, is about cutting through the red tape and easing the burdens on those who are working to rebuild. It provides commonsense flexibility for teachers and schools; it encourages community-based services and eases access to child care; and it provides assistance for displaced workers.

For 1 year, the bill will ease the burdens on teachers and schools to ensure they can focus on education instead of focusing on compliance with burdensome rules. This includes easing funding requirements so States and schools have greater flexibility to use resources to meet the needs of their students.

It will also expand opportunities for qualified teachers to serve displaced students, and will expand a pilot project to affected States to reduce the paperwork burden on special education teachers. Furthermore, the bill encourages States to ease restrictions on charter schools so that they may play an active role in the relief effort.

The Hurricane Regulatory Relief Act includes steps to make it easier for college students to transfer from one institution to another so they can continue to make progress toward a degree, and it improves the outreach process to help disadvantaged students learn about the financial aid opportunities that may be available.

To help displaced families get back on their feet, the bill expands access to child care services by easing Federal requirements for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and providing guidance, technical assistance, flexibility, and resources to ensure displaced children have access to the Head Start early childhood program.

The bill also provides greater flexibility within the Community Services Block Grant program, which provides an array of services and assistance through Community Action Agencies.

Our efforts to cut red tape don't stop there. The bill will provide financial flexibility for displaced workers, reducing bureaucratic burdens to ensure displaced workers seeking emergency funds from their personal retirement plans may access them more quickly and easily.

Finally, the bill also works to enhance safety and reduce bureaucracy in relief projects.

Mr. Speaker, this bill offers commonsense solutions to speed the relief effort by cutting through red tape and easing the regulatory burden.

Once again, I'd like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative JINDAL, and Members on both sides of the aisle for working to aid those impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Managers of the bill jointly submit this statement to explain and clarify the intent of certain provisions contained within the legislation.

With respect to amendments made to the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act in Section 311 of the legislation, the Managers recognize the historic and unique nature of this disaster inflicted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and is taking the extraordinary step of authorizing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to use volunteers in light of the historic scope of that devastation.

Section 311 of the bill is intended to allow OSHA to utilize qualified safety professionals as volunteers to assist in a variety of projects targeting health and safety identified by OSHA. It is the Managers' expectation and intent that these volunteers would be qualified by virtue of experience, and would need little additional training based on their professional work experience or other recognized safety training prior to being deployed in needed areas.

With respect to Section 312's providing authority to the Secretary to purchase and distribute equipment and supplies to public or private entities engaged in projects related to worker safety, it is the intent of the Managers that these funds be used to assist in relief and recovery efforts, and not be used to pay private entities to comply with preexisting requirements or obligations under the OSH Act.

Finally, with respect to Title III, Subtitle A, the "Pension Flexibility for Displaced Workers Act of 2005," it is the Managers' expectation and intention that the Secretary will exercise the authority provided under that section judiciously and upon careful consideration of the appropriateness of any waiver, suspension, or exemption authorized thereunder.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3975, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. 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 the following bills and resolution to be considered today: H.R. 3647, H.R. 1036, H.R. 866, H.R. 1442, and House Resolution 547.

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

There was no objection.