

or hurricanes in South Carolina's Lowcountry or natural disasters in any other impacted community nationwide, consistency and dependability are crucial.

I want to thank the American Flood Coalition for working with Representative CUNNINGHAM and me on this important legislation.

In closing, H.R. 4358 will help communities across the country recover from disasters by improving the consistency, dependability, and accuracy in the preliminary damage assessment process for FEMA disaster relief.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4358, as I mentioned earlier, is going to improve FEMA support for communities that have been hit by disasters by ensuring more consistency in the preliminary damage assessment process.

This bill will provide much better and faster government assistance to those whose lives have been impacted by floods, by hurricanes, and by so many other disasters that we see.

Again, I want to thank and I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for his leadership on this issue.

I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4358, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSING SURVIVORS OF MAJOR DISASTERS ACT OF 2020

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2914) to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2914

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 "Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FEMA.**—The term "FEMA" means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of FEMA.

SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR AND USE OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, individuals and households described in subsection (c) may be eligible for assistance made available under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) in connection with a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), including Hurricane Maria of 2017.

(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Any assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a) may include costs relating to obtaining title for a property described in subsection (c)(1), including the cost of land surveys and any other taxes or fees associated with obtaining the title for such property.

(c) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS OR HOUSEHOLDS.**—With respect to a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), an individual or household described in this subsection is an individual or household who—

(1) is residing on a property located in the area for which the major disaster was declared but does not have documented ownership rights to such property and is not renting such property; or

(2) is or was residing in an area for which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), during the designated incident period, including residing in any housing accommodation or property upon which a housing accommodation is located, including any living quarters, boardinghouse, bunkhouse, manufactured home, mobile home, or travel trailer.

(d) **EVIDENCE.**—

(1) **CONSIDERATION.**—In making a determination to provide assistance pursuant to this Act, the Administrator shall consider a wide range of evidence.

(2) **ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF EVIDENCE.**—In determining if an individual or household is eligible for assistance pursuant to this Act, the Administrator shall accept either a declarative statement or the presentation of at least one item of alternative evidence, including the following:

(A) A utility (including gas, electric, sewer, or water) bill with the name and address of the individual.

(B) A merchant's statement (including a credit card, delivery notice, or first class mail) with the name and address of the individual.

(C) A pay stub from an employer with the name and address of the individual.

(D) A current driver's license or State-issued identification card of the individual.

(E) The deed or title for the applicable property.

(F) A mortgage payment booklet or another mortgage document.

(G) Property title of mobile home certificate of title.

(H) A real estate property tax receipt.

(I) A school registration containing the address of self, child, or children.

(J) A will and testament with the name and address of the individual.

(K) In a State that does not require a will and testament for the transfer of immovable property, a death certificate and birth certificate that establishes an automatic transfer of legal ownership.

(L) Medical records that list the name and address of the individual.

(M) A charitable donation receipt that list the name and address of the individual.

(N) Any other documentation, certification, identification, or proof of occupancy or ownership not included on this list that

can reasonably link the individual requesting assistance to the applicable property.

(e) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section shall apply to funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. DECLARATIVE STATEMENT.

(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF DECLARATIVE STATEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall create, in coordination with the appropriate authorities of the applicable jurisdiction, and distribute, where necessary, a declarative statement form that an applicant for assistance provided pursuant to section 3 may use to self-certify such applicant's eligibility for assistance pursuant to this Act.

(2) **PROHIBITION OF NOTARIZATION.**—The Administrator may not require the declarative statement form created under paragraph (1) to require notarization by the applicant.

(b) **EXEMPTIONS.**—A declarative statement form created under subsection (a)(1) is exempt from publication notice, public comment periods, and agency information collection review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

(c) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide written notification and guidance to employees of FEMA regarding the requirements of this Act.

(d) **PUBLICATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) make the declarative statement form created under subsection (a)(1) available in Spanish and English at all active Disaster Recovery Centers; and

(2) publish in English, Spanish, and any other locally predominant languages on the website of FEMA and on social media the declarative statement form and instructions on how applicants can reopen or seek further appeal of relevant determinations.

(e) **PAST DISASTERS.**—For applicants of assistance provided pursuant to section 3 since January 1, 2017, the Administrator shall provide an applicant not fewer than 180 days to submit the declarative statement form to reopen or appeal a case after such applicant has received notice of the right to do so.

SEC. 5. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.

Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)(i) by striking "to a safe and sanitary living or functioning condition" and inserting "to ensure that such residences are habitable during longer term recovery (including through coordination with other sources for repair and rebuilding of such residences)"; and

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking "in cases in which" and all that follows through the end and inserting "if the President determines such assistance is a cost effective alternative to other housing solutions, including the costs associated with temporary housing provided under this section.".

SEC. 6. POST-DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE ANALYSIS AND REPORT.

(a) **ANALYSIS.**—The Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall conduct an analysis comparing the costs, benefits, and effectiveness of assistance provided under the Disaster Housing Assistance Program, including any case management services provided, with other temporary housing options provided by the Administrator under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(b) **PROVISION OF DATA.**—The Secretary shall ensure that public housing authorities

engaged in carrying out the Disaster Housing Assistance Program relay data concerning the extent and effectiveness of case management services in transitioning individuals and households toward self-sufficiency under the Program compared to other alternative disaster assistance programs available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains the analysis required under subsection (a) and an analysis of the oversight mechanisms, program integrity checks, and financial management measures utilized in carrying out the Program compared to alternative disaster housing assistance programs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 7. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

□ 1645

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. 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 H.R. 2914, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2914, the Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act, introduced by Mr. ESPAILLAT of New York and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

This bipartisan legislation is aimed at reducing the bureaucratic burden placed on the disaster survivors when applying for Federal assistance. In the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and several other disasters in the continental United States, including wildfires near California or near Oregon, many disaster survivors have struggled to produce documents necessary to prove their residency. This is particularly difficult when those disasters have decimated all of their possessions and records.

Additionally, qualified survivors have had trouble registering for assistance because they resided in homes passed down from generation to gen-

eration, in areas where title record-keeping hasn't been adequately maintained to track these transfers. We have seen this issue time and again over the last decade and a half since Hurricane Katrina.

FEMA has worked to address these challenges, but all efforts to this point have been ad hoc. H.R. 2914 formalizes the home certification process that FEMA has developed over the years, allowing survivors to self-certify their residency with an expanded list of acceptable supported documentation.

Survivors should not be expected to wade through bureaucratic red tape after their lives have been upended by a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2914, and I would ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2914, which would help disaster victims verify residency and homeownership following a disaster. When disasters strike, essential property and possessions are often destroyed. Disaster victims may not be able to easily obtain the paperwork needed for them to verify their residency, which delays needed assistance and the recovery process.

This bill is going to clarify how the Federal Emergency Management Agency addresses alternate verification.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for her work with Mr. ESPAILLAT of New York on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge support of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), my good friend.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. NORTON for her contributions to this bill. I also want to extend my appreciation to Ranking Member GRAVES, Chairwoman TITUS, Subcommittee Ranking Member KATKO, and committee staff for advancing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron Davis with the committee has been particularly helpful to my team, my staff, for the past year and a half to get this bill over the line. I know it would have been very difficult without his help and expertise.

Since Hurricanes Maria and Irma devastated the island of Puerto Rico in the fall of 2017, I have visited the island several times, including with some of my congressional colleagues. I have spoken about this with the Congresswoman from Puerto Rico, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, who has command of this issue.

I have seen firsthand how public policy failures, our failures, have manifested on the island. The Housing Sur-

vivors of Major Disasters Act, which I was proud to introduce with Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, addresses some of these policy failures within the housing assistance programs our government deploys after natural disasters.

Some of these programs' shortcomings have left thousands of Americans in Puerto Rico without the means to rebuild their homes. Our bill aims to fix this. Currently, folks applying for assistance must furnish the deed of their home and/or notarized statements confirming the ownership of their home.

Mr. Speaker, I vividly remember when Hurricane Sandy struck my home State of New York. The last thing people were thinking about as they sought cover was where to find pieces of paper. And I can attest to the hurt of communities in Puerto Rico, Florida, and elsewhere, in the wake of Hurricanes Maria and Irma were devastating.

How can we expect families to find their deeds through rubble, destruction, and pain left by these storms?

I am equally stretched by the idea that in the most vulnerable time and in the wake of destruction, the American Government is asking its citizens to find a notary before they can receive help.

What is more, in places like Puerto Rico, thousands of individuals have no formal documentation, properties and ownership is passed on generation to generation, very often five and six generations. Given all these challenges, we crafted this bipartisan legislation to remove these barriers and establish new and more realistic standards for natural disaster survivors applying for Federal housing assistance.

Along with Chairman DEFAZIO, Ranking Member GRAVES, my colleagues on the Committee, and Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, I thank Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, her staff, and the numerous advocates for their tireless efforts in crafting and advancing this legislation over the past 2 years, which is vital if we wish to make the people of Puerto Rico whole again and avoid similar calamities in the future.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I thank again my ranking member and his staff for all the help to make this bill able to come to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2914, the Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act. I thank Representative ESPAILLAT for leading this bill with me, to ensure not just people in the Nation, but actually on the island of Puerto Rico, constituents that I do represent here in Congress and those affected by Hurricane Maria have increased flexibility in providing ownership of property when applying for Federal disaster funding. This was a major issue, and actually still is, many times.

FEMA changed the way the documents were going to be accepted. Then they changed it again. And they did that more than five times during the course of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. So at the beginning, no papers were accepted, and then they changed it. So there was a difficult situation for people, even in the center of the island.

The documents that were requested in the north part of the island were different from those in the south, from those in the west, or in the countryside. And that is the reason this bill is so important.

This bill will provide necessary flexibilities in the form of documents that individuals that were residing in the area during the natural disaster got to apply for disaster assistance. Individuals may now use their driver's license, deeds, or title to properties, utilities bills, or any of the 13 forms included in this bill as evidence of occupancy.

In our case, you got many people that were affected. There was no doubt in terms of FEMA or the government that they were affected by the hurricanes, yet they did not have the papers at the time because they lose them because of disaster, and it was so difficult to get the government actually to use or redo those papers in time. So that took almost a year for many of the individuals affected by hurricanes in Puerto Rico just to provide the documents.

As you may know, many of the dates expired. Most of the people didn't qualify then to receive the Federal funds that were available for disaster survivors. That is the reason H.R. 2914 also includes language for a report on the Disaster Housing Assistance Program, and how effective this program is. The Federal Emergency Management Agency decided against using this disaster housing program in Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, as the agency looks to other efficient programs to more effectively meet the immediate needs of those affected by the two hurricanes.

After those crazy 1 and 2 years, I may say that FEMA is helping and providing and using many of the forms that are now included in this bill to get those funds available. But, again, that can change if we don't have it in law, and that is the reason this bill is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, Representatives ESPAILLAT, and leadership on the Committee, as well as my ranking member for supporting this legislation and working with me and my staff to improve this bill for the past year. I urge its passage.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2914 is going to help speed up the recovery following a disaster by helping disaster victims who have lost their personal records, and likely much more, to verify residency and homeownership. It is a very good piece of legislation, and I would

urge support of this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2914, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OCEAN POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4611) to modify permitting requirements with respect to the discharge of any pollutant from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in certain circumstances, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 4, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 221]

YEAS—395

Adams	Calvert	Davis (CA)
Agullar	Carbajal	Davis, Danny K.
Allen	Cárdenas	Davis, Rodney
Allred	Carson (IN)	Dean
Armstrong	Carter (GA)	DeFazio
Arrington	Carter (TX)	DeGette
Axne	Cartwright	DeLauro
Babin	Case	DelBene
Bacon	Casten (IL)	Delgado
Baird	Castor (FL)	Demings
Balderson	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Banks	Chabot	DesJarlais
Barr	Cheney	Deutch
Barragán	Chu, Judy	Diaz-Balart
Bass	Cicilline	Dingell
Beatty	Cisneros	Doggett
Bera	Clark (MA)	Doyle, Michael
Bergman	Clarke (NY)	F.
Beyer	Clay	Duncan
Biggs	Cleaver	Dunn
Bilirakis	Cline	Emmer
Bishop (GA)	Cloud	Engel
Bishop (NC)	Clyburn	Escobar
Blumenauer	Cohen	Eshoo
Blunt Rochester	Cole	Espallat
Bonamici	Comer	Estes
Bost	Conaway	Evans
Boyle, Brendan	Connolly	Ferguson
F.	Cooper	Finkenauer
Brady	Correa	Fitzpatrick
Brindisi	Costa	Fleischmann
Brooks (AL)	Courtney	Fletcher
Brown (MD)	Cox (CA)	Flores
Brownley (CA)	Craig	Fortenberry
Buchanan	Crawford	Foster
Buck	Crenshaw	Fox (NC)
Bucshon	Crist	Frankel
Budd	Crow	Fudge
Burchett	Cuellar	Fulcher
Burgess	Cunningham	Gabbard
Bustos	Curtis	Gaetz
Butterfield	Davids (KS)	Gallagher
Byrne	Davidson (OH)	Gallego

Garamendi	Lofgren	Sarbanes
Garcia (CA)	Long	Scalise
Garcia (IL)	Loudermilk	Scanlon
Garcia (TX)	Lowenthal	Schakowsky
Gibbs	Lowe	Schiff
Golden	Lucas	Schneider
Gomez	Luján	Schrader
Gonzalez (OH)	Luria	Schrier
Gonzalez (TX)	Lynch	Schweikert
Gooden	Maloney,	Scott (VA)
Gosar	Carolyn B.	Scott, Austin
Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David
Granger	Marshall	Serrano
Graves (LA)	Massie	Sewell (AL)
Graves (MO)	Mast	Shalala
Green (TN)	Matsui	Sherman
Green, Al (TX)	McAdams	Sherrill
Grijalva	McBath	Shimkus
Grothman	McCarthy	Sires
Guest	McCaul	Slotkin
Guthrie	McClintock	Smith (MO)
Haaland	McCollum	Smith (NE)
Hagedorn	McEachin	Smith (NJ)
Harder (CA)	McGovern	Smith (WA)
Harris	McHenry	Smucker
Hartzler	McKinley	Soto
Hastings	McNerney	Spanberger
Hayes	Meeks	Spano
Heck	Meng	Speier
Hern, Kevin	Meuser	Stanton
Herrera Beutler	Mfume	Staubert
Hice (GA)	Miller	Stefanik
Higgins (LA)	Moolenaar	Steil
Higgins (NY)	Mooney (WV)	Steube
Hill (AR)	Moore	Stevens
Himes	Morelle	Stewart
Holding	Moulton	Stivers
Hollingsworth	Mucarsel-Powell	Suozy
Horn, Kendra S.	Mullin	Swalwell (CA)
Horsford	Murphy (FL)	Takano
Houlahan	Murphy (NC)	Taylor
Hoyer	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
Hudson	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Huffman	Neal	Thompson (PA)
Hurd (TX)	Neguse	Thornberry
Jackson Lee	Norcross	Tiffany
Jacobs	Norman	Timmons
Jayapal	Nunes	Tipton
Jeffries	O'Halleran	Titus
Johnson (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Tlaib
Johnson (LA)	Omar	Tonko
Johnson (OH)	Palazzo	Torres (CA)
Johnson (SD)	Pallone	Torres Small
Johnson (TX)	Palmer	(NM)
Jordan	Panetta	Trahan
Joyce (OH)	Pappas	Trone
Joyce (PA)	Pascrell	Turner
Kaptur	Payne	Underwood
Katko	Pence	Upton
Keating	Perry	Van Drew
Keller	Peters	Vargas
Kelly (IL)	Peterson	Veasey
Kelly (MS)	Phillips	Vela
Kelly (PA)	Pingree	Velázquez
Kennedy	Pocan	Vislosky
Khanna	Porter	Wagner
Kildee	Posey	Walden
Kilmer	Pressley	Walker
Kim	Price (NC)	Walorski
Kind	Quigley	Wasserman
Kinzing	Raskin	Schultz
Kirkpatrick	Reed	Waters
Krishnamoorthi	Reschenthaler	Watkins
Kuster (NH)	Rice (NY)	Watson Coleman
Kustoff (TN)	Riggleman	Weber (TX)
LaHood	Roby	Webster (FL)
LaMalfa	Rodgers (WA)	Welch
Lamb	Roe, David P.	Wenstrup
Langevin	Rogers (AL)	Westerman
Larsen (WA)	Rose (NY)	Wexton
Larson (CT)	Rose, John W.	Wild
Latta	Rouda	Williams
Lawrence	Rouzer	Wilson (FL)
Lawson (FL)	Roy	Wilson (SC)
Lee (CA)	Roybal-Allard	Wittman
Lee (NV)	Ruiz	Womack
Levin (CA)	Ruppersberger	Yarmuth
Levin (MI)	Rush	Yoho
Lieu, Ted	Rutherford	Zeldin
Lipinski	Ryan	
Loeback	Sánchez	

NAYS—4

Amash	Griffith
Gohmert	Rice (SC)