

cash donations from spectators at the first Montana State University home football game last Saturday. Immediately after the game, a free concert took place and the Red Cross was present to accept contributions.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office sent 120 dolls and blankets to children caught in the disaster.

The Greater Gallatin United Way has decided to "adopt" Alexandria, Louisiana, a town that has taken in more than 6,500 evacuees, in an effort to focus its giving on one geographic area. Mount Ellis Academy students raised nearly \$10,000 for the United Way last Sunday afternoon.

And businesses are also rising to the cause. Ag Express, a Billings-based trucking company, is collecting donations of clothing, blankets, diapers, water and other supplies. The company is working with FEMA and plans to leave Thursday to deliver the load to Baton Rouge, LA.

Wheat Montana Bakery, Carpet One and Corcoran Trucking worked together to send 4,600 loaves of bread and 41,000 hamburger buns to the Astro-dome in Houston, TX.

In Three Forks, Hegar's Septic Service is giving \$5 to the Red Cross for every septic tank it pumps.

First Security Bank in Bozeman, MT is sending a freight truck with bottled water and medical supplies. They are also donating eight ATM machines to the Louisiana Banker Association. They will be hooked up to temporary banking stations in areas that already have electricity.

Mr. President, I am proud of the spirit and generosity of the citizens and businesses of Montana and across this country. It is with this spirit in mind that I offer a tax relief package for the victims of this tragedy. My good friend Senator GRASSLEY and I worked closely with our Senate Colleagues in this effort. All six Senators from the affected States are cosponsors.

The relief package is aimed at four needs of the victims of the hurricane. One, they need cash and they need it fast. Two, they need jobs. Three, they need decent housing. And four, charities need help from Congress so they can help the victims of the hurricane.

First, displaced persons need money. Some of these displaced persons left everything behind. They need cash to buy basic essentials such as food and water.

Our bill allows victims of Hurricane Katrina to access retirement accounts for immediate cash assistance. Under current law, there is a 10 percent penalty for early distributions of money in these accounts. We waive that penalty and allow displaced persons to re-contribute to the retirement account over a 3-year period.

Second, many of these displaced persons want to get back into the workforce. We provide businesses with the tools they need to hire displaced workers. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit allows employers to claim a credit against wages paid to new workers that

face barriers to employment. It applies to low-income families, veterans and other targeted groups. We expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to cover all survivors of Hurricane Katrina who lived in the disaster zone and became unemployed as a result of the hurricane.

We also allow employers located in the disaster zone to take a 40 percent tax credit on wages paid to employees on the first \$6,000 of pay.

Third, the people affected by this tragedy need shelter. They need a warm, safe place to rest. Many folks across the country have opened up their hearts and opened up their homes. But it is not easy. It means extra living expenses—the water bill will be higher, the electric bill will be higher, and the grocery bill will be higher. This is a considerable burden that folks are doing voluntarily, out of the goodness of their hearts. We need to help.

That's why we allow individuals to claim an additional personal exemption of \$500 for each displaced person they shelter for a minimum of 60 days. This money will help offset the costs incurred by these generous individuals.

Finally, the victims need the generosity of individuals and businesses across this country. There has been a surge in giving to charitable organizations and we should encourage this activity. Our bill provides incentives for corporations to increase gifts of cash, food, books and other items sorely needed in the affected areas and communities.

We also allow taxpayers to transfer money in retirement accounts to a charitable organizations tax free.

The Nation is depending on Congress to act, and to act quickly. I think we have responded with a good bill that provides swift relief for the millions affected by this catastrophe.

Hurricane Katrina will exacerbate the existing problems of poverty and the working poor. The images we have seen of Katrina's poverty-stricken victims over the last few weeks should serve as a wake-up call to policymakers—we must do more to help them help themselves.

I am currently drafting changes to the tax code which will enhance current incentives for the working poor and especially those with children. I look forward to working with my Colleagues in this effort as we continue to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina get back on their feet.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 236—RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO PURSUE RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSES, A TREATMENT, AND AN EVENTUAL CURE FOR IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS WEEK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 236

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a serious lung disorder causing progressive, incurable lung scarring;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is one of about 200 disorders called interstitial lung diseases;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is the most common form of interstitial lung disease;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and generally fatal disease marked by progressive scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability to transport oxygen;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis progresses quickly, often causing disability or death within a few short years;

Whereas there is no proven cause of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas approximately 83,000 United States citizens have idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and 31,000 new cases are diagnosed each year;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is often misdiagnosed or under diagnosed;

Whereas the median survival rate for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients is 2 to 3 years, and about two thirds of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years; and

Whereas a need has been identified to increase awareness and detection of this misdiagnosed and under diagnosed disorder: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;

(2) supports the work of the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis and its partner organizations for their great efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for individuals who suffer from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, including the work of the Coalition to organize a national "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week";

(3) supports the designation of an appropriate week as "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week";

(4) congratulates the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis for its efforts to educate the public about idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, while funding research to help find a cure for this disorder; and

(5) supports the goals and ideals of a national "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week".

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my friends Senators LUGAR and BINGAMAN, today in submitting the National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week Resolution.

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) is a devastating lung disease affecting

over 80,000 Americans with 31,000 more Americans diagnosed each year. IPF scars the lining of the lungs and makes it hard for oxygen to be transported to the rest of the body. It negatively affects the ability of major organs to function normally and impairs breathing.

The National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Resolution seeks to increase awareness, encourage further research, and support the goals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week.

Until the day when every American can live a life free of lung disease, we must continue to promote awareness, and strengthen our investment in research, diagnosis and treatment.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me and Senators LUGAR and BINGAMAN in raising awareness of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis by supporting the National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week Resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1695. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1696. Mr. SUNUNU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1697. Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1698. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1699. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1700. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1701. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1702. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1703. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Ms. MUKULSKI, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CORZINE, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. OBAMA) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2862, supra.

SA 1704. Mr. SHELBY (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2862, supra.

SA 1705. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1695. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted

an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2862, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5. SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY RELIEF.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—
(1) the term “covered loan” means a loan or loan guarantee by the Administration—

(A) under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act or section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958; and

(B) to a small business concern that—
(i) is located in a disaster area; and
(ii) has been adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina;

(2) the term “disaster area” means an area declared as a disaster area as a result of Hurricane Katrina of August 2005;

(3) the term “small business concern” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act; and

(4) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively.

(b) TEMPORARY DEFERMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON DISASTER LOANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administration shall, during the 2-year period following the date of issuance of a loan issued under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act related to Hurricane Katrina, defer payments of principal and interest on the loan (and no interest shall accrue thereon during such period).

(2) RESUMPTION OF PAYMENTS.—Unless the Administrator finds an extension necessary or appropriate, at the end of the 2-year period described in paragraph (1), the payment of periodic installments of principal and interest shall be required with respect to a loan issued under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, in the same manner and subject to the same terms and conditions as would otherwise be applicable to such loan.

(c) DISASTER LOANS FOLLOWING HURRICANE KATRINA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting immediately before the undesignated material following paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) DISASTER LOANS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA.—

“(A) REFINANCING DISASTER LOANS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Any loan made under this subsection that was outstanding as to principal or interest on August 24, 2005, may be refinanced by a small business concern that is located in an area designated as a disaster area as a result of Hurricane Katrina of 2005 (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘disaster area’) and that is adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina, and the refinanced amount shall be considered to be part of a new loan for purposes of this subparagraph.

“(ii) NO EFFECT ON ELIGIBILITY.—A refinancing under clause (i) by a small business concern shall be in addition to any other loan eligibility for that small business concern under this Act.

“(B) REFINANCING BUSINESS DEBT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Any business debt of a small business concern that was outstanding as to principal or interest on August 24, 2005, may be refinanced by the small business concern if it is located (or was located on August 24, 2005) in a disaster area and was adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina. With respect to a refinancing under this clause,

payments of principal may be deferred, and interest may accrue, during the 1-year period following the date of refinancing.

“(ii) RESUMPTION OF PAYMENTS.—At the end of the 1-year period described in clause (i), the payment of periodic installments of principal and interest on a refinancing under clause (i) shall be required with respect to such refinancing, in the same manner and subject to the same terms and conditions as would otherwise be applicable to any other loan made under this subsection.

“(C) TERMS.—A loan under this paragraph shall be made at the same interest rate as economic injury loans under paragraph (2). Any reasonable doubt concerning the repayment ability of an applicant under this paragraph shall be resolved in favor of the applicant.

“(5) INCREASED LOAN CAPS.—

“(A) AGGREGATE LOAN AMOUNTS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), and in addition to amounts otherwise authorized by this Act, the loan amount outstanding and committed to a borrower under this subsection may not exceed \$10,000,000, with respect to a small business concern that is located in an area designated as a disaster area following Hurricane Katrina of August 2005, and that has been adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.

“(B) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may, at the discretion of the Administrator, waive the aggregate loan amount established under subparagraph (A).

“(6) EXTENDED APPLICATION PERIOD FOR HURRICANE KATRINA ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator shall accept applications for a loan under this subsection by a small business concern that is located in an area designated as a disaster area as a result of Hurricane Katrina and that has been adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina, until 1 year after the date on which the area was designated as a disaster area.

“(7) LIMITATION ON SALES OF LOANS.—No loan under this subsection, made as a result of Hurricane Katrina, may be sold.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended in the undesignated matter at the end—

(A) by striking “, (2), and (4)” and inserting “and (2)”;

(B) by striking “, (2), or (4)” and inserting “(2)”.

(3) DISASTER LOAN ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—In addition to any other amounts otherwise appropriated for such purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Administration \$117,000,000, to make covered loans under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act.

(d) ASSUMPTION OF PAYMENTS FOR EXISTING SBA LOANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administration shall, in the case of a covered loan issued before the date of enactment of this Act, make all periodic payments, including interest, with respect to such covered loan on behalf of the borrower during the time period described in paragraph (2).

(2) TIME PERIOD.—The time period under paragraph (1) shall begin on the date of enactment of this Act and end on the earlier of the date on which the Administration determines the borrower can resume making payments or the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) RESUMPTION OF PAYMENTS.—Unless the Administrator finds an extension necessary or appropriate, at the end of the time period described in paragraph (2), no further payments shall be made on behalf of the borrower with respect to a covered loan.

(e) SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY LOANS.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15