

to accept recommendations given by an independent advisory board, which examined the American Red Cross's governance structure and practices. H.R. 1681 reflects these recommendations and would improve the American Red Cross's governance structure by centralizing and reorganizing its infrastructure. Some notable enhancements include reducing its board size from 50 members to 20 in order to facilitate emergency action, giving the board all the powers in governing and managing the American Red Cross, and establishing a Presidential Advisory Council composed of eight to ten principal officers of the executive departments and senior officers of the Armed Forces to provide governmental input and support. Additionally, the modernized charter would enhance congressional oversight and transparency by creating an Ombudsman who would provide an annual report to Congress articulating any concerns of volunteers, employees, donors, clients and the public. The House adopted two amendments to the Senate-passed language that would clarify and ensure that the chapters of the American Red Cross are geographically and regionally diverse and that the American Red Cross will reach out to local charitable and faith-based organizations when providing relief services in local communities. These improvements to the bill make no statutory changes and I hope my colleagues will support them.

According to the American Red Cross's end of the year report, Hurricane Katrina created a record of 1.4 million families, or around 4 million people, who needed emergency assistance such as food, clothing and other necessities. My wife, Marcelle, was one of hundreds of thousands of volunteers dedicated to providing these essential relief services to victims of Katrina. No one knows when the next disaster will strike. Congress must do everything in our power to ensure that the American Red Cross can continue and improve upon the essential humanitarian work on which the United States and the world relies. I commend the Red Cross for taking important action to reform itself and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1681) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 24,
2007

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired and the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Republicans and the final 30 minutes under the control of the majority; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 761; that on Tuesday, at the conclusion of the vote on the judicial nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, if there is no further business today, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 165 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:26 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 10 a.m.