



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Speaker Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Deb Peters
*Senator – District 9
South Dakota
President, NCSL*

Chuck Truesdell
*Fiscal Analyst
Office of Budget Review
Legislative Research Commission
Kentucky
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

RE: NCSL Urges Passage of the Disaster Relief Legislation

Dear Senator McConnell, Senator Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of the nation's states, commonwealths and territories, we strongly support passage of the Supplemental Disaster Relief Appropriations legislation in order to send aid to those parts of the United States ravished by the recent hurricanes and wildfires.

If approved, the bipartisan measure will provide relief to the storm-struck areas of Florida, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, as well as fire ravaged California. The bill includes \$18.7 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster relief fund, \$4.9 billion of which is earmarked for loans to local governments to ensure that cash-strapped Puerto Rico can keep government programs operating beyond October 31. Not passing the bill would be devastating to these ailing states and territories as it would put a halt on all current rescue, relief, and rebuilding projects.

At this moment in history, the government's top priority should be to ensure the safety and viability of its people. Day after day there are American lives being lost as the devastation continues. Passage of this legislation will save the lives of Americans citizens and will help them return to a state of relative normalcy as the rebuilding process begins. NCSL strongly supports this legislation and any and all other relief efforts.

Respectfully,

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures