

HR 5498

Equitable Access to Disaster Relief and Preparedness Services Act

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: May 25, 2006

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management. (May 26, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/5498>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

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Rep. Wu, David [D-OR-1]	D · OR		May 25, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	May 26, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Equitable Access to Disaster Relief and Preparedness Services Act - Amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to require regulations issued for the guidance of personnel providing federal assistance at major disaster sites to include provisions ensuring that relief activities be accomplished without discrimination based on English proficiency.

Directs the President to: (1) ensure that all federal entities that provide assistance maintain the capability to administer competent interpreter and translation services; (2) communicate with state and local governments to identify individuals with limited English proficiency and include them in disaster preparedness planning; (3) have available for activation a sufficient cadre of emergency assistance employees; (4) develop and maintain an informational clearinghouse of model language assistance programs and best practices; and (5) report to Congress on the treatment of individuals with limited English proficiency during Hurricane Katrina and on the feasibility of operating a toll-free number by which such individuals can obtain information in their primary language regarding federally funded disaster services and benefits.

Includes within the technical assistance the President is required to provide to states assistance to individuals with and without English proficiency following disasters.

Requires the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to: (1) conduct an emergency preparedness demonstration program to study the needs of individuals and households with limited English proficiency for use in the design and development of community and family preparedness programs; and (2) develop initiatives to improve disaster awareness and readiness in communities that have individuals with limited English proficiency.

Actions Timeline

- **May 26, 2006:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.
- **May 25, 2006:** Introduced in House
- **May 25, 2006:** Introduced in House
- **May 25, 2006:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.