

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6249

To provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and the families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and the families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Think Differently
5 About Emergencies Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
4 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to
5 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
6 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
7 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
8 ate a report describing the assistance and resources that
9 the Administrator provides for individuals with intellectual
10 and developmental disabilities and the families of such in-
11 dividuals who are impacted by major disasters declared
12 under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
13 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) to
14 the following:

- 15 (1) States.
16 (2) Localities.
17 (3) Nonprofit organizations.
18 (4) Directly to such individuals.

19 (b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a)
20 shall contain—

- 21 (1) a description of the resources and best prac-
22 tices that the Administrator makes available to the
23 entities listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of sub-
24 section (a) that are impacted by major disasters de-
25 clared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford

1 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
2 U.S.C. 5170);

3 (2) detail the process the Administrator under-
4 takes to train personnel and deploy such personnel
5 into areas to coordinate with States, localities, and
6 nonprofit organizations to provide assistance and en-
7 sure that the needs of individuals with intellectual
8 and developmental disabilities and the families of
9 such individuals are met following such a disaster;

10 (3) list the number of programs the Adminis-
11 trator administers which support individuals with in-
12 tellectual and developmental disabilities to prepare
13 for and recover from such disasters, including by
14 provide accommodation to such individuals and the
15 families of such individuals;

16 (4) description of outreach activities of the Ad-
17 ministration to State, local, and nonprofit experts on
18 addressing the needs of individuals with intellectual
19 and developmental disabilities and the families of
20 such individuals impacted by such disasters; and

21 (5) report that identifies, with respect to indi-
22 viduals with intellectual and developmental disabili-
23 ties and the families of such individuals, areas for
24 improvement in supporting such individuals and

1 families to prepare for and recover from such disas-
2 ters.

3 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES.**

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
6 and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
7 ment Agency shall each—

8 (1) conduct a review of assistance and resources
9 the Administrator provides to States, localities, non-
10 profit organizations, and individuals to assist—

11 (A) individuals with intellectual and devel-
12 opmental disabilities;

13 (B) individuals with physical disabilities;
14 and

15 (C) the families of the individuals de-
16 scribed in subparagraphs (A) and (B);

17 (2) identify potential legal impediments to pro-
18 viding such assistance and resources;

19 (3) provide to Congress recommendations on
20 how the Administration can—

21 (A) improve such assistance and resources;

22 (B) enhance coordination with States, lo-
23 calities, nonprofit organizations in carrying out
24 such assistance and providing such resources;

25 and

1 (C) streamline the application process and
2 delivery of assistance and resources to individ-
3 uals described in subparagraphs (A) through
4 (C) of paragraph (1); and
5 (4) provide to Congress recommendations on
6 any legislative reform necessary to improve such as-
7 sistance and resources.

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