

Calendar No. 268107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1623****[Report No. 107-115]**

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the President to appoint Children's Coordinating Officers for disaster areas in which children have lost 1 or more custodial parents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 1, 2001

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. CORZINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

DECEMBER 7, 2001

Reported by Mr. JEFFORDS, without amendment

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to direct the President to appoint Children's Coordinating Officers for disaster areas in which children have lost 1 or more custodial parents.

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

1 **SECTION 1. CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE.**

2 Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
3 Emergency Assistance Act is amended by inserting after
4 section 410 (42 U.S.C. 5177) the following:

5 **“SEC. 411. CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE.**

6 “(a) APPOINTMENT OF CHILDREN'S COORDINATING
7 OFFICER.—If the President determines that children have
8 lost 1 or more custodial parents in an area that the Presi-
9 dent has declared to be a disaster area under this Act,
10 the President shall appoint an individual to serve as a
11 Children's Coordinating Officer for the area.

12 “(b) FUNCTIONS.—A Children's Coordinating Officer
13 appointed under subsection (a) shall—

14 “(1) provide necessary support and assistance
15 for children described in subsection (a) to ensure
16 their immediate care and transition to a permanent
17 and loving family;

18 “(2) enter into partnerships with appropriate
19 Federal, State, and local governmental agencies to
20 direct and coordinate the provision of assistance to
21 children described in subsection (a); and

22 “(3) coordinate all efforts by community-based
23 organizations, foundations, funds, or other organiza-
24 tions to provide assistance to children described in
25 subsection (a).

1 “(c) SERVICES.—A Children’s Coordinating Officer
2 appointed under subsection (a) shall ensure that children
3 and their caregivers are provided with—

4 “(1) immediate temporary care services;

5 “(2) counseling on long-term permanency plan-
6 ning;

7 “(3) legal services for guardianships and adop-
8 tions;

9 “(4) information on available services and as-
10 sistance for victims of the disaster; and

11 “(5) mental health services.”.

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