

SUPPORT FOR STREAMLINING DISASTER FEDERAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY EFFORTS

The January 2025 Los Angeles County Wildfires inflicted incomprehensible damage on the Los Angeles County community, destroying over 18,000 homes and structures and displacing hundreds of thousands of residents. In the aftermath of these unprecedented wildfires, local, state, and federal agencies have worked tirelessly to stabilize impacted communities, yet long-term recovery remains an ongoing challenge. Thousands of residents continue to face barriers to rebuilding due to delayed federal funding, complex recovery programs, and the lack of affordable housing options across the region. These circumstances have underscored the urgent need for federal reforms that make disaster assistance more timely, equitable, and sustainable.

The U.S. Senate recently passed S. 2651 the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act , authored by Senators Tim Scott (R-South Carolina) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), which is a large bipartisan package designed to increase affordable housing supply, reduce barriers to housing development, and improve federal program efficiencies. The legislation first passed unanimously out of the Senate Banking Committee in August 2025. It was then included as an amendment to S. 2296 the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026 , which passed the Senate on October 9, 2025.

The bill includes 40 different provisions focused on housing, regulatory reforms, pathways to homeownership, and more. One key provision of interest to Los Angeles County (County) is the permanent reauthorization of the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

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MOTION

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The CDBG-DR program provides long-term recovery assistance to states and local governments that have been impacted by a major disaster. It is a vital tool available to the low-income disaster survivors, serving disaster-stricken communities with the highest needs.

This legislation establishes the Office of Disaster Management and Resilience at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), permanently authorizing HUD to administer the CDBG-DR program and coordinate with other federal agencies to develop and share best practices and provide technical assistance and training to state and local agencies on disaster recovery and mitigation. This permanent funding stream would avoid the need for Congress to authorize funding after every disaster, enabling HUD to respond and deliver assistance more quickly.

In Los Angeles County, the permanent authorization of CDBG-DR would mean a more efficient and streamlined award and dispersal of federal disaster funds. The last round of CDBG-DR assistance was appropriated by Congress in January 2025 for disasters in 2023 and 2025, but did not include the January 2025 fires. As a result, many fire-impacted residents continue to face uncertainty, awaiting resources to rebuild homes, repair local infrastructure, and restore essential community services. Therefore, permanent reauthorization of CDBG-DR is critical to ensure that those impacted by major disasters can access timely, equitably, and sustained federal recovery funding.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to support the ROAD to Housing Act of 2025 provisions within the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

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KB:nvc