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107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1623

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

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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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE.

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

"SEC. 411. CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE.

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

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

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

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

"(3) coordinate all efforts by community-based organizations, foundations, funds, or other organizations to provide assistance to children described in subsection (a).

"(c) SERVICES.—A Children's Coordinating Officer appointed under subsection (a) shall ensure that children and their caregivers are provided with—

"(1) immediate temporary care services;

"(2) counseling on long-term permanency planning;

"(3) legal services for guardianships and adoptions;

"(4) information on available services and assistance for victims of the disaster; and

"(5) mental health services.".

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