

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3708

To dedicate 10 percent of Hurricane Katrina disaster relief funds for mental health services to victims and first responders.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To dedicate 10 percent of Hurricane Katrina disaster relief funds for mental health services to victims and first responders.

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 “Hurricane Katrina
5 Mental Health Relief Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEDICATION OF 10 PERCENT OF HURRICANE**
2 **KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS FOR MEN-**
3 **TAL HEALTH SERVICES TO VICTIMS AND**
4 **FIRST RESPONDERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts provided in any
6 Act for “Disaster Relief” enacted on or after September
7 8, 2005, in response to Hurricane Katrina and its after-
8 math, notwithstanding any other provision of law, 10 per-
9 cent shall be available to the Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services to provide reimbursement without cost-
11 sharing for mental health professionals for the provision
12 of outpatient mental health treatment (including appro-
13 priate prescription medications) of victims of, and first re-
14 sponders to, Hurricane Katrina for the treatment of
15 stress, trauma, and other mental health conditions arising
16 out of, or complicated by, such Hurricane and its after-
17 math.

18 (b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Reimbursement
19 under this section shall be available for services furnished
20 during the 2-year period beginning on August 29, 2005.

21 (c) NONDUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
23 reimbursement under this section shall not be avail-
24 able for treatment to the extent other reimburse-
25 ment is available for such treatment.

1 (2) COVERAGE OF STATE SHARE OF MEDICAID
2 AND SCHIP.—Reimbursement under this section
3 shall be available to States to cover the State share
4 of costs of treatment described in subsection (a) pro-
5 vided to beneficiaries under title XIX or XXI of the
6 Social Security Act who are victims of, or first re-
7 sponders to, Hurricane Katrina.

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