

# Calendar No. 508

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1970

To establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, a National Resource Center on Children and Disasters, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2007

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. LANDRIEU) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Reported by Mr. KENNEDY, with an amendment and an amendment to the title

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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## A BILL

To establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, a National Resource Center on Children and 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 “Addressing the Dis-  
5 aster Needs of Children Act of 2007”.

1 **TITLE I—NATIONAL COMMIS-**  
2 **SION ON CHILDREN AND DIS-**  
3 **ASTERS**

4 **SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

5 There is established in the legislative branch the Na-  
6 tional Commission on Children and Disasters (in this title  
7 referred to as the “Commission”).

8 **SEC. 102. PURPOSES OF COMMISSION.**

9 The purposes of the Commission are to—

10 (1) examine, assess, and report upon the facts  
11 and causes relating to the needs of children before,  
12 during, and after all hazards, disasters, and emer-  
13 gencies;

14 (2) build upon the investigations of other enti-  
15 ties and avoid unnecessary duplication, by reviewing  
16 the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of  
17 other executive branch, congressional, or inde-  
18 pendent commissions, or nongovernmental entities,  
19 relating to the needs of children before, during, and  
20 after all hazards, disasters, and emergencies; and

21 (3) investigate and report to the President and  
22 Congress on its findings, conclusions, and rec-  
23 ommendations for measures that can be taken to ad-  
24 dress fully the needs of children before, during, and  
25 after all hazards, disasters, and emergencies.

1 **SEC. 103. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) **MEMBERS.**—The Commission shall be composed  
3 of 10 members, of whom—

4 (1) 1 member shall be appointed by the Presi-  
5 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-  
6 ate, and shall serve as the chairperson;

7 (2) 1 member, who is of a different political  
8 party than that of the member appointed under  
9 paragraph (1), shall be appointed by the President,  
10 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
11 and shall serve as Vice chairperson;

12 (3) 2 members shall be appointed by the Major-  
13 ity Leader of the Senate;

14 (4) 2 members shall be appointed by the Minor-  
15 ity Leader of the Senate;

16 (5) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speak-  
17 er of the House of Representatives; and

18 (6) 2 members shall be appointed by the Minor-  
19 ity Leader of the House of Representatives.

20 (b) **POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION.**—Not more than  
21 5 members of the Commission shall be from the same po-  
22 litical party.

23 (c) **GOVERNMENTAL APPOINTEES.**—An individual  
24 appointed to the Commission may not be an elected official  
25 of the Federal Government or any State or local govern-  
26 ment.

1       (d) MEMBER EXPERTISE.—

2           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 1 member of  
3 the Commission shall have demonstrated expertise  
4 in—

5           (A) child health, including physical and  
6 mental health;

7           (B) child health services and delivery sys-  
8 tems;

9           (C) child care services and delivery sys-  
10 tems;

11          (D) child welfare services and delivery sys-  
12 tems;

13          (E) primary education services;

14          (F) housing services relevant to children  
15 and families;

16          (G) transportation services relevant to chil-  
17 dren and families;

18          (H) juvenile justice systems and services  
19 relevant to children and families;

20          (I) public finance mechanisms relevant to  
21 children and families; or

22          (J) emergency mitigation, preparedness,  
23 recovery, and response activities relevant to  
24 children and families.

1           (2) ~~NONGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTISE.~~—At least  
2           1 member of the Commission shall be from a private  
3           nonprofit, private for-profit, or philanthropic entity  
4           with demonstrated expertise in addressing the needs  
5           of children before, during, and after all hazards, dis-  
6           asters, and emergencies.

7           (e) ~~DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.~~—All members of  
8           the Commission shall be appointed not later than 60 days  
9           after the date of enactment of this Act.

10          (f) ~~INITIAL MEETING.~~—The Commission shall meet  
11          and begin the operations of the Commission not later than  
12          90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

13          (g) ~~QUORUM; VACANCIES.~~—After its initial meeting,  
14          the Commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson  
15          or a majority of the members of the Commission. Six  
16          members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for  
17          purposes of conducting business. Any vacancy in the Com-  
18          mission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in  
19          the same manner in which the original appointment was  
20          made.

21          **SEC. 104. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.**

22          The Commission shall—

23                 (1) conduct an investigation that—

24                         (A) examines and assesses relevant facts  
25                         and causes relating to the needs of children be-

1 fore, during, and after all hazards, disasters,  
2 and emergencies; and

3 ~~(B)~~ includes relevant facts and causes re-  
4 lating to the needs of—

5 (i) child health, including physical and  
6 mental health;

7 (ii) child care;

8 (iii) child welfare;

9 (iv) primary education;

10 (v) housing;

11 (vi) transportation;

12 (vii) juvenile justice;

13 (viii) public finance mechanisms; and

14 (ix) relevant activities in emergency  
15 mitigation, preparedness, response, and re-  
16 covery;

17 ~~(2)~~ identify, review, and evaluate existing laws  
18 relevant to the needs of children before, during, and  
19 after all hazards, disasters, and emergencies;

20 ~~(3)~~ identify, review, and evaluate relevant past  
21 events regarding the mitigation, preparedness, re-  
22 sponse, recovery, coordination, and service delivery  
23 policies of the Federal Government, and, where ap-  
24 plicable, State and local governments and non-  
25 governmental entities, relative to addressing fully the

1 needs of children before, during, and after all haz-  
 2 ards, disasters, and emergencies; and

3 (4) submit to the President and Congress such  
 4 reports as required by this title containing such find-  
 5 ings, conclusions, and recommendations for meas-  
 6 ures as the Commission shall determine appropriate,  
 7 including proposing organization, planning, coordi-  
 8 nation, management, and financial policies, arrange-  
 9 ments, procedures, rules, and regulations.

10 **SEC. 105. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—

12 (1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commis-  
 13 sion may, for the purpose of carrying out this title  
 14 hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and  
 15 places, take such testimony, receive such evidence,  
 16 and administer such oaths as may be necessary to  
 17 carry out the functions of the Commission.

18 (2) WITNESS ALLOWANCES AND FEES.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1821 of title  
 20 28, United States Code, shall apply to a witness  
 21 requested to appear at a hearing of the Com-  
 22 mission.

23 (B) EXPENSES.—The per diem and mile-  
 24 age allowances for a witness shall be paid from

1 funds available to pay the expenses of the Com-  
2 mission.

3 (b) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such  
4 extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropria-  
5 tion Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Commission  
6 to discharge its duties under this title.

7 (c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission is author-  
9 ized to secure directly from any executive depart-  
10 ment, bureau, agency, board, commission, office,  
11 independent establishment, or instrumentality of the  
12 Federal Government, information, suggestions, esti-  
13 mates, and statistics for the purposes of this title.  
14 Each department, bureau, agency, board, commis-  
15 sion, office, independent establishment, or instru-  
16 mentality shall, to the extent authorized by law, fur-  
17 nish such information, suggestions, estimates, and  
18 statistics directly to the Commission, upon request  
19 made by the chairperson, the chairperson of any  
20 subcommittee created by the Commission, or any  
21 member designated by a majority of the Commis-  
22 sion.

23 (2) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND DIS-  
24 SEMINATION.—Information shall only be received,  
25 handled, stored, and disseminated by members of



1 the Commission and its staff consistent with all ap-  
2 plicable statutes, regulations, and Executive orders.

3 ~~(d) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—~~

4 ~~(1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—~~

5 The Administrator of General Services shall provide  
6 to the Commission on a reimbursable basis adminis-  
7 trative support and other services for the perform-  
8 ance of the Commission's functions.

9 ~~(2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In~~

10 addition to the assistance provided for under para-  
11 graph (1), departments and agencies of the United  
12 States may provide to the Commission such services  
13 as they may determine advisable and as may be au-  
14 thorized by law.

15 ~~(e) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use~~  
16 the United States mails in the same manner and under  
17 the same conditions as departments and agencies of the  
18 United States.

19 **SEC. 106. STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

20 ~~(a) IN GENERAL.—~~

21 ~~(1) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—The~~  
22 chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with  
23 the vice chairperson, in accordance with rules agreed  
24 upon by the Commission, may appoint and fix the  
25 compensation of a staff director and such other per-

1       sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Commis-  
2       sion to carry out its functions, in accordance with  
3       the provisions of title 5, United States Code, except  
4       that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may  
5       exceed the equivalent of that payable for a position  
6       at level V of the Executive Schedule under section  
7       5316 of title 5, United States Code.

8               (2) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

9               (A) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of the  
10              Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.  
11              App) shall apply to the staff director and any  
12              personnel of the Commission.

13              (B) MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.—Subpara-  
14              graph (A) shall not be construed to apply to  
15              members of the Commission.

16              (b) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government employee  
17              may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement  
18              from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the  
19              rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employ-  
20              ment without interruption.

21              (c) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Commission is au-  
22              thorized to procure the services of experts and consultants  
23              in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States  
24              Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a per-  
25              son occupying a position at level IV of the Executive

1 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States  
2 Code.

3 **SEC. 107. COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.**

4 (a) **COMPENSATION.**—Each member of the Commis-  
5 sion may be compensated at a rate not to exceed the daily  
6 equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for  
7 a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under sec-  
8 tion 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day dur-  
9 ing which that member is engaged in the actual perform-  
10 ance of the duties of the Commission.

11 (b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—While away from their  
12 homes or regular places of business in the performance  
13 of services for the Commission, members of the Commis-  
14 sion shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem  
15 in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons em-  
16 ployed intermittently in the Government service are al-  
17 lowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5, United  
18 States Code.

19 **SEC. 108. REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION; TERMINATION.**

20 (a) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Commission may sub-  
21 mit to the President and Congress interim reports con-  
22 taining such findings, conclusions, and recommendations  
23 for measures as have been agreed to by a majority of Com-  
24 mission members.

1       (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 16 months after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission  
3 shall submit to the President and Congress a final report  
4 containing such findings, conclusions, and recommenda-  
5 tions for measures as have been agreed to by a majority  
6 of Commission members.

7       (c) TERMINATION.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, and all the  
9 authorities of this title, shall terminate 60 days after  
10 the date on which the final report is submitted  
11 under subsection (b).

12           (2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TER-  
13 MINATION.—The Commission may use the 60-day  
14 period referred to in paragraph (1) for the purpose  
15 of concluding its activities, including providing testi-  
16 mony to committees of Congress concerning its re-  
17 ports and disseminating its final report.

18 **SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
20 this title, \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and  
21 2009.

1 **TITLE II—NATIONAL RESOURCE**  
2 **CENTER ON CHILDREN AND**  
3 **DISASTERS**

4 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESOURCE CENTER.**

5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this  
6 title referred to as the “Secretary”) shall establish a Na-  
7 tional Resource Center on Children and Disasters (in this  
8 title referred to as the “Center”).

9 **SEC. 202. PURPOSE OF THE CENTER.**

10 The Center shall provide resource information to  
11 Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, as well as  
12 to other nongovernmental entities, on issues relating to the  
13 needs of children before, during, and after all hazards, dis-  
14 asters, and emergencies.

15 **SEC. 203. FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER.**

16 The Center shall—

17 (1) establish a clearinghouse to collect, main-  
18 tain, disseminate, and, where appropriate, develop  
19 information, networks, and resources on issues relat-  
20 ing to the needs of children before, during, and after  
21 all hazards, disasters, and emergencies, including  
22 child health, child care, child welfare, primary edu-  
23 cation, housing, transportation, juvenile justice, pub-  
24 lic finance mechanisms, and relevant activities in

1 emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and  
2 recovery; and

3 ~~(2) develop and maintain a website and related~~  
4 ~~systems for disseminating information on issues de-~~  
5 ~~scribed in paragraph (1).~~

6 **SEC. 204. COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.**

7 (a) **COLLABORATION.**—In carrying out this section,  
8 the Secretary shall collaborate with any executive depart-  
9 ment, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, inde-  
10 pendent establishment, or instrumentality of the Govern-  
11 ment responsible for policies, arrangements, procedures,  
12 rules, and regulations relevant to the needs of children be-  
13 fore, during, and after all hazards, disasters, and emer-  
14 gencies.

15 (b) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—Not later  
16 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
17 Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of under-  
18 standing with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the  
19 Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Housing and  
20 Urban Development, the Secretary of Transportation, and  
21 the Attorney General, to collaborate where appropriate on  
22 the functions described in section 203.

23 (c) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out this title, the  
24 Secretary shall consult with—

25 (1) State and local agencies;

1           (2) national and local organizations with dem-  
2           onstrated expertise in working to address the needs  
3           of children before, during, and after all hazards, dis-  
4           asters, and emergencies;

5           (3) national organizations with demonstrated  
6           specialty expertise in areas such as child health,  
7           child care, child welfare, primary education, public  
8           housing, transportation, juvenile justice, public fi-  
9           nance mechanisms, and relevant activities in emer-  
10          gency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recov-  
11          ery; and

12          (4) qualified professionals who possess the spe-  
13          cialized knowledge, skills, experience, and relevant  
14          attributes related to addressing the needs of children  
15          before, during, and after all hazards, disasters, and  
16          emergencies.

17 **SEC. 205. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.**

18          The Secretary may, to such extent and in such  
19          amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts, enter into  
20          contracts to enable the Center to discharge its duties  
21          under this title.

22 **SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23          There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
24          this title \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and  
25          2009.

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Kids in Disasters Well-*  
 3 *being, Safety, and Health Act of 2007”.*

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 *In this Act:*

6 (1) *ALL HAZARDS.*—*The term “all hazards” has*  
 7 *the meaning given the term “hazard” under section*  
 8 *602(a)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief*  
 9 *and Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195a), and includes*  
 10 *natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-*  
 11 *made disasters.*

12 (2) *CHILD; CHILDREN.*—*The terms “child” and*  
 13 *“children” mean an individual or individuals, respec-*  
 14 *tively, who have not attained 18 years of age.*

15 (3) *EMERGENCY.*—*The term “emergency” has the*  
 16 *meaning given such term under section 102(1) of the*  
 17 *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act*  
 18 *(42 U.S.C. 5122(1)).*

19 (4) *MAJOR DISASTER.*—*The term “major dis-*  
 20 *aster” has the meaning given such term under section*  
 21 *102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*  
 22 *Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)).*

23 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

24 *There is established a commission to be known as the*  
 25 *“National Commission on Children and Disasters” (re-*  
 26 *ferred to in this Act as the “Commission”).*



1 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES OF COMMISSION.**

2 *The purposes of the Commission are to—*

3 *(1) conduct a comprehensive study to examine*  
4 *and assess the needs of children as they relate to prep-*  
5 *aration for, response to, and recovery from all haz-*  
6 *ards, including major disasters and emergencies;*

7 *(2) build upon the evaluations of other entities*  
8 *and avoid unnecessary duplication, by reviewing the*  
9 *findings, conclusions, and recommendations of other*  
10 *commissions, Federal, State, and local governments,*  
11 *or nongovernmental entities, relating to the needs of*  
12 *children as they relate to preparation for, response to,*  
13 *and recovery from all hazards, including major disas-*  
14 *ters and emergencies; and*

15 *(3) submit a report to the President and Con-*  
16 *gress on specific findings, conclusions, and rec-*  
17 *ommendations to address the needs of children as they*  
18 *relate to preparation for, response to, and recovery*  
19 *from all hazards, including major disasters and emer-*  
20 *gencies.*

21 **SEC. 5. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION.**

22 *(a) MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be composed of*  
23 *10 members, of whom—*

24 *(1) 1 member shall be appointed by the Presi-*  
25 *dent;*

1           (2) 1 member, who is of a different political  
2           party than that of the member appointed under para-  
3           graph (1), shall be appointed by the President;

4           (3) 2 members shall be appointed by the major-  
5           ity leader of the Senate;

6           (4) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
7           ity leader of the Senate;

8           (5) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker  
9           of the House of Representatives; and

10          (6) 2 members shall be appointed by the minor-  
11          ity leader of the House of Representatives.

12          (b) *CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, AND MEET-*  
13 *INGS.*—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all  
14 members of the Commission are appointed under subsection  
15 (a), such members shall meet to elect a Chairperson and  
16 Vice Chairperson from among such members and shall de-  
17 termine a schedule of Commission meetings.

18          (c) *GOVERNMENTAL APPOINTEES.*—An individual ap-  
19 pointed to the Commission may not be an official or em-  
20 ployee of the Federal Government.

21          (d) *COMMISSION REPRESENTATION.*—The Commission  
22 shall include at least one—

23           (1) representative from private nonprofit entities  
24           with demonstrated expertise in addressing the needs  
25           of children as they relate to preparation for, response

1       *to, and recovery from all hazards, including major*  
2       *disasters and emergencies; and*

3               (2) *State emergency manager or local emergency*  
4       *manager.*

5       (e) *QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed under sub-*  
6       *section (a) may include—*

7               (1) *individuals involved with providing services*  
8       *to children, including health, education, housing, and*  
9       *other social services;*

10              (2) *individuals with experience in emergency*  
11       *management, including coordination of resources and*  
12       *services among State and local governments, the Fed-*  
13       *eral Government, and nongovernmental entities;*

14              (3) *individuals with philanthropic experience fo-*  
15       *cused on the needs of children in all hazards, includ-*  
16       *ing major disasters and emergencies;*

17              (4) *individuals with experience in providing do-*  
18       *nated goods and services, including personnel services,*  
19       *to meet the needs of children and families as they re-*  
20       *late to preparation for, response to, and recovery from*  
21       *all hazards, including major disasters and emer-*  
22       *gencies; and*

23              (5) *individuals who have conducted academic re-*  
24       *search related to addressing the needs of children in*

1       *all hazards, including major disasters and emer-*  
 2       *gencies.*

3       (f) *INITIAL MEETING.*—*The Commission shall meet*  
 4       *and begin the operations of the Commission not later than*  
 5       *120 days after the appointment of members of the Commis-*  
 6       *sion.*

7       (g) *QUORUM AND VACANCY.*—

8               (1) *QUORUM.*—*A majority of the members of the*  
 9       *Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser*  
 10       *number of members may hold hearings.*

11              (2) *VACANCY.*—*Any vacancy in the Commission*  
 12       *shall not affect its powers and shall be filled in the*  
 13       *same manner in which the original appointment was*  
 14       *made.*

15   **SEC. 6. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

16       *The Commission shall—*

17              (1) *conduct pursuant to section 4(2) a com-*  
 18       *prehensive study that examines and assesses the needs*  
 19       *of children as they relate to preparation for, response*  
 20       *to, and recovery from all hazards, including major*  
 21       *disasters and emergencies, including specific findings*  
 22       *relating to—*

23                      (A) *child physical health, mental health,*  
 24                      *and trauma;*

25                      (B) *child care in all settings;*

1                   (C) child welfare;

2                   (D) elementary and secondary education;

3                   (E) sheltering, temporary housing, and af-  
4                   fordable housing;

5                   (F) transportation;

6                   (G) juvenile justice;

7                   (H) evacuation; and

8                   (I) relevant activities in emergency manage-  
9                   ment;

10                  (2) identify, review, and evaluate existing laws,  
11                  regulations, policies, and programs relevant to the  
12                  needs of children as they relate to preparation for, re-  
13                  sponse to, and recovery from all hazards, including  
14                  major disasters and emergencies;

15                  (3) identify, review, and evaluate the lessons  
16                  learned from past disasters and emergencies relative  
17                  to addressing the needs of children; and

18                  (4) submit a report to the President and Con-  
19                  gress on the Commission's specific findings, conclu-  
20                  sions, and recommendations to address the needs of  
21                  children as they relate to preparation for, response to,  
22                  and recovery from all hazards, including major disas-  
23                  ters and emergencies, including specific recommenda-  
24                  tions on the need for planning and establishing a na-  
25                  tional resource center on children and disasters, co-

1        *ordination of resources and services, administrative*  
2        *actions, policies, regulations, and legislative changes*  
3        *as the Commission considers appropriate.*

4        **SEC. 7. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

5        *(a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hear-*  
6        *ings, meet and act at such times and places, and receive*  
7        *such evidence as may be necessary to carry out the functions*  
8        *of the Commission.*

9        *(b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—*

10            *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may access,*  
11            *to the extent authorized by law, from any executive*  
12            *department, bureau, agency, board, commission, of-*  
13            *fice, independent establishment, or instrumentality of*  
14            *the Federal Government such information, sugges-*  
15            *tions, estimates, and statistics as the Commission*  
16            *considers necessary to carry out this Act.*

17            *(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On written*  
18            *request of the Chairperson of the Commission, each*  
19            *department, bureau, agency, board, commission, of-*  
20            *fice, independent establishment, or instrumentality*  
21            *shall, to the extent authorized by law, provide the re-*  
22            *quested information to the Commission.*

23            *(3) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND DIS-*  
24            *SEMINATION.—Information shall only be received,*  
25            *handled, stored, and disseminated by members of the*

1        *Commission and its staff consistent with all applica-*  
2        *ble statutes, regulations, and Executive orders.*

3        *(c) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—*

4            *(1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—On*  
5        *request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the Ad-*  
6        *ministrator of General Services shall provide to the*  
7        *Commission, on a reimbursable basis, administrative*  
8        *support and other assistance necessary for the Com-*  
9        *mission to carry out its duties.*

10           *(2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In*  
11        *addition to the assistance provided for under para-*  
12        *graph (1), departments and agencies of the United*  
13        *States may provide to the Commission such assistance*  
14        *as they may determine advisable and as authorized*  
15        *by law.*

16        *(d) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may enter into*  
17        *contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties*  
18        *under this Act.*

19        *(e) DONATIONS.—The Commission may accept, use,*  
20        *and dispose of donations of services or property.*

21        *(f) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the*  
22        *United States mails in the same manner and under the*  
23        *same conditions as a department or agency of the United*  
24        *States.*

1 **SEC. 8. STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

2       (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Chairperson of the Commis-*  
3 *sion, in consultation with the Vice Chairperson, in accord-*  
4 *ance with rules agreed upon by the Commission, may ap-*  
5 *point and fix the compensation of a staff director and such*  
6 *other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commis-*  
7 *sion to carry out its functions, in accordance with the pro-*  
8 *visions of title 5, United States Code, except that no rate*  
9 *of pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the equivalent*  
10 *of that payable for a position at level V of the Executive*  
11 *Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.*

12       (b) *STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.*—*Upon request of*  
13 *the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of any execu-*  
14 *tive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office,*  
15 *independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Fed-*  
16 *eral Government may detail, without reimbursement, any*  
17 *of its personnel to the Commission to assist it in carrying*  
18 *out its duties under this Act. Any detail of an employee*  
19 *shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status*  
20 *or privilege.*

21       (c) *CONSULTANT SERVICES.*—*The Commission is au-*  
22 *thorized to procure the services of experts and consultants*  
23 *in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States*  
24 *Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person*  
25 *occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule*  
26 *under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.*



1 **SEC. 9. TRAVEL EXPENSES.**

2 *Each member of the Commission shall serve without*  
3 *compensation, but shall receive travel expenses, including*  
4 *per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applica-*  
5 *ble provisions in the same manner as persons employed*  
6 *intermittently in the Government service are allowed ex-*  
7 *penses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.*

8 **SEC. 10. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICA-**  
9 **BILITY.**

10 *The provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act*  
11 *shall apply to the Commission, including the staff of the*  
12 *Commission.*

13 **SEC. 11. REPORTS OF COMMISSION; TERMINATION.**

14 *(a) INTERIM REPORT.—The Commission shall, not*  
15 *later than 1 year after the date of its first meeting, submit*  
16 *to the President and Congress an interim report containing*  
17 *specific findings, conclusions, and recommendations re-*  
18 *quired under this Act as have been agreed to by a majority*  
19 *of Commission members.*

20 *(b) OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION.—*

21 *(1) REPORTS.—The Commission may issue addi-*  
22 *tional reports as the Commission determines nec-*  
23 *essary.*

24 *(2) INFORMATION.—The Commission may hold*  
25 *public hearings to collect information and shall make*  
26 *such information available for use by the public.*

1       (c) *FINAL REPORT.*—*The Commission shall, not later*  
 2 *than 2 years after the date of its first meeting, submit to*  
 3 *the President and Congress a final report containing spe-*  
 4 *cific findings, conclusions, and recommendations required*  
 5 *under this Act as have been agreed to by a majority of Com-*  
 6 *mission members.*

7       (d) *TERMINATION.*—

8           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Commission, and all the*  
 9 *authorities of this Act, shall terminate 180 days after*  
 10 *the date on which the final report is submitted under*  
 11 *subsection (b).*

12           (2) *RECORDS.*—*Not later than the date of termi-*  
 13 *nation of the Commission under paragraph (1), all*  
 14 *records and papers of the Commission shall be deliv-*  
 15 *ered to the Archivist of the United States for deposit*  
 16 *in the National Archives.*

17 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18       *There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out*  
 19 *this Act, \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009.*

20 **SEC. 13. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

21       *Nothing in this Act shall be construed to confer on the*  
 22 *Commission purposes and duties that are the responsibility*  
 23 *of the Congress.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, and for other purposes.”.



**Calendar No. 508**

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session  
**S. 1970**

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**A BILL**

To establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, a National Resource Center on Children and Disasters, and for other purposes.

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NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Reported with an amendment and an amendment to the  
title