

more than 6.1 billion and increases by one billion every 13 years.

Therefore, it is important for us to recognize the problems associated with rapid population growth and urbanization. Governor Graves has proclaimed the week of October 21–27 of this year as World Population Awareness week in the great state of Kansas, and I would like to support the Governor in this effort by entering his proclamation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATE OF KANSAS—PROCLAMATION BY
THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, World population stands today at more than 6.1 billion increases by some one billion every 13 years; and

WHEREAS, The most significant feature of the 20th century phenomena of unprecedented world population growth was rapid urbanization; and

WHEREAS, Cities and urban areas today occupy only 2% of the earth's land, but contain 50% of its population and consume 75% of its resources; and

WHEREAS, The most rapid urban growth over the next two decades is expected in cities with populations ranging from 250,000 to one million; and

WHEREAS, Along with advantages and amenities, the rapid growth of cities leads to substantial pressure on their infrastructure, manifested in sanitary, health and crime problems, as well as deterring the provision of basic social services; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of national and environmental security, nations must redouble voluntary and humanitarian efforts to stabilize their population growth at sustainable levels, while at all times respecting the cultural and religious beliefs and values of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, World Population Awareness Week was proclaimed last year by Governors of 32 states, as well as Mayors of more than 315 United States cities, and co-sponsored by 231 organizations in 63 countries;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the week of October 21–27, 2001, as

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

Done at the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 25th day of September, A.D. 2001.

THE CHARITY ACCOUNTABILITY
ACT, H.R. 3192

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3192, the Disaster Relief Charities Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, seven weeks have past since the barbaric attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the thwarted hijacking attempt in Pennsylvania, yet victims and their families have not received the funding they desperately need.

Initial reports have indicated that more than \$1.2 billion has been collected by 196 charitable organizations.

While this overwhelming support by Americans has been gratifying, there is a great deal of concern that the funds raised may not be going directly to the intended beneficiaries—the victims and their families—and instead are being diverted or, worse yet, miss their intended goal.

More than 100 families in my congressional district have been affected by the horror of the September 11 attack in New York. Many of these families have been calling my office requesting information and assistance on how and where to go to receive these donated funds.

Accordingly, I am introducing H.R. 3192 to provide a full accounting of: all funds received to date, the amount spent and distributed and for what purpose, the criteria used for disseminating these funds, the percentage of funds donated that will actually go to the victims, and the administrative costs for allocating these funds.

In addition, the Charity Accountability Act will provide both the victims and their families, as well as those wanting to donate, with a clearinghouse of all charitable organizations participating in this important fund-raising initiative.

It is my intention that this legislation will insure that the money raised to assist Americans during any disaster event will go to the intended beneficiary.

Specifically, this legislation will establish a five member board to: (1) Collect and provide information to assist both the victims and those wishing to contribute to various disaster funds; (2) collect and maintain an on-going accounting of all funds collected and disbursed; (3) obtain and review the criteria used by the various relief funds to pay out these funds; and (4) report to both the president and the congress on the status of these funds.

The outpouring by the American people to the disastrous events of September 11 should not be wrought with confusion or cynicism on how the funds are being distributed or possibly misdirected. It is obvious that Americans want their donated funds to go directly to the victims and their families. Any funds collected for this intended purpose and spent otherwise would place a black mark on the entire philanthropic community, dissuading and jeopardizing any future donations.

Accordingly, I encourage my colleagues to review this important legislation and welcome their support.

H.R. 3192

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Relief Charities Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. DISASTER RELIEF FUND DEFINED.

In this Act the term “disaster relief fund” means a fund established by a charitable organization for relief of a specific disaster with contributions totaling at least \$25,000.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a board to be known as the “Charity Accountability Board” (in this Act referred to as the “Board”).

SEC. 4. DUTIES.

The Board shall—

(1) request information from and make recommendations to qualify charitable organizations regarding—

(A) the amount of disaster relief funds collected and dispersed by such organizations;

(B) the administrative costs incurred by such organizations in administering disaster relief funds; and

(C) the criteria used by such organizations in dispersing disaster relief funds;

(2) provide information about disaster relief funds to disaster victims and those wishing to contribute to such funds; and

(3) report to the President and the Congress on the status of such funds.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—The Board shall be composed of 5 members appointed as follows:

(1) The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or the Director's delegate.

(2) Two members appointed by the President, who shall each serve for a term of 4 years.

(3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House, who shall serve for a term of 2 years.

(4) One member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall serve for a term of 2 years.

(b) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(c) BASIC PAY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members shall serve without pay but shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(e) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at the call of a majority of its members.

SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.

(a) DIRECTOR.—The Board may appoint a Director and such additional personnel as its considers appropriate.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—Any Director and staff appointed under subsection (a) shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

SEC. 7. REPORTING.

The Board shall transmit to the President and the Congress monthly reports concerning the information collected and disseminated and recommendations made by the Board, and any other information the Board considers appropriate.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION.

Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. relating to the termination of advisory committee) shall not apply to the Board.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act, to remain available until expended.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 2

9 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues concerning smallpox.

SD-192

9:30 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Children and Families Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the support of children in times of crisis.

SD-106

NOVEMBER 6

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on the nomination of Thomas L. Sansonetti, of Wyoming, to

be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice.

SD-226

NOVEMBER 7

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine international aviation alliances, focusing on market turmoil and the future of airline competition.

SD-226

NOVEMBER 8

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on the nomination of Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

SR-253