



United States Senator

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Policy Brief

The Child Safety, Care, and Education Continuity Act of 2010

- In November 2005, Congress incorporated aid to the Gulf Coast into the Deficit Reduction Act, which was signed into law on February 8, 2006 – almost six months after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The programs sunset after one year.
- This legislation introduced today will authorize some of those expired programs, as well as several new measures, to ensure that our nation has a framework in place to help children and families regain some normalcy in the event of a future catastrophic disaster.
- Sen. Landrieu, as Chair of the Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery, has held two hearings (August 4 and December 10, 2009) focusing on the needs of children before, during and after a catastrophic disaster.
- On October 14, 2009, the National Commission on Children and Disasters released its Interim Report to the Administration and Congress putting forward policy recommendations – some of which have been incorporated into the Act.

Trigger - Titles I, II, and III Will Go into Effect When the Criteria Below Are Met

- The program must be activated if 10 percent of students enrolled in public or private elementary schools in the State are displaced for more than 60 days by a presidentially-declared disaster.
- The Executive Branch may choose to activate these programs even if the catastrophe fails to meet the mandatory activation trigger.
- The Governor or chief executive officer of the State may request that the Executive Branch carry out a program or activity under Titles I, II, and III.

Title I – Tuition Reimbursement & School Impact Aid (K-12)

- Authorizes tuition reimbursement for displaced students, funding for host community schools, and aid to disaster area schools to restart operations.

Title II – Higher Education Students & Institutions

- Gives the Secretary of Education the authority to waive or modify regulations on student financial assistance programs (e.g. Pell Grants) and other grants to higher education institutions within the disaster area.

Title III – Mental Health Counseling & Access to Child Care

- Authorizes counseling for Pre-K students through Head Start Agencies.
- Increases access to child care services for disaster-affected families through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program so parents can seek housing and employment opportunities.

Title IV – Emergency Planning for Child Care Centers

- Requires child care centers that receive federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to develop emergency plans for evacuation, reunification, special needs, and temporary operating standards, and encourages states and localities to address child care facilities in their response plans.

Title V - Medicaid/CHIP Continuity

- Requires HHS to assist states in developing Disaster Guidance for Medicaid and CHIP Providers. This will ensure that doctors know how to apply for reimbursement and increase their willingness to treat out-of-state evacuees.