#### 110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 1227

To assist in the provision of affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Ms. WATERS (for herself and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 assist in the provision of affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

- 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 "Gulf Coast Hurricane
- 5 Housing Recovery Act of 2007".

# TITLE I—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS sec. 101. FLEXIBILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR ROAD HOME PROGRAM.

5 (a) FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDS.—Subject to subsection (b) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the 6 amounts previously made available to the Louisiana Re-7 8 covery Authority under the Hazard Mitigation Grants pro-9 gram of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 10 \$1,200,000,000 of such unexpended amounts shall be con-11 sidered to have been made available to such Authority 12 under the terms of the heading relating to "Department 13 of Housing and Urban Development—Community Plan-14 ning and Development—Community Development Fund" 15 in chapter 9 of title II of Public Law 109–234 (120 Stat. 472) and approved by the Secretary of Housing and 16 Urban Development for use under the Road Home Pro-17 18 gram of such Authority.

19 (b) MONTHLY REPORTS ON PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Louisiana Recovery Authority shall submit reports under this subsection regarding the Road Home Program to the Committee
on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs of the Senate. Each report under this

1	subsection shall describe and analyze the implemen-
2	tation, status, and effectiveness of the Road Home
3	Program and shall include the following information,
4	for the applicable reporting period and for the entire
5	period of the program:
6	(A) The number of applications submitted
7	for assistance under the program.
8	(B) The number of households for which
9	assistance has been provided under the pro-
10	gram.
11	(C) The average amount of assistance pro-
12	vided for each household under the program
13	and the total amount of assistance provided
14	under the program.
15	(D) The number of personnel involved in
16	executing all aspects of the program.
17	(E) Actions taken to improve the program
18	and recommendations for further such improve-
19	ments.
20	(2) Reporting periods.—The first report
21	under this subsection shall be submitted not later
22	than the expiration of the 30-day period that begins
23	upon the date of the enactment of this Act and re-
24	ports shall be submitted not later than the expira-

tion of each successive 30-day period thereafter dur ing the term of the program.

#### 3 SEC. 102. ELIMINATION OF PROHIBITION OF USE FOR 4 MATCH REQUIREMENT.

5 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts made available before the date of the enactment 6 7 of this Act for activities under the community development 8 block grant program under title I of the Housing and 9 Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et 10 seq.) for expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in the areas im-11 12 pacted or distressed by the consequences of Hurricane 13 Katrina, Rita, or Wilma in States for which the President declared a major disaster may be used by a State or local-14 15 ity as a matching requirement, share, or contribution for any other Federal program. 16

#### 17 SEC. 103. REIMBURSEMENT OF CDBG AMOUNTS USED FOR

18

#### RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

19 There are authorized to be appropriated, from any 20 amounts made available before the date of the enactment 21 of this Act under any provision of law to the Federal 22 Emergency Management Agency for disaster relief under 23 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-24 sistance Act relating to the consequences of Hurricane 25 Katrina, Rita, or Wilma that remain unobligated, such

sums as may be necessary for the Secretary of Housing 1 2 and Urban Development to provide assistance under title 3 I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 4 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) to metropolitan cities and 5 urban counties that used amounts previously made avail-6 able under such title to provide rental housing assistance 7 for families residing in such city or county pursuant to 8 evacuation from their previous residences because of such 9 hurricanes in the amount necessary to provide each such 10 city and county with an amount equal to the aggregate amount of previous assistance under such title so used. 11

#### 12 **TITLE II—PUBLIC HOUSING**

#### 13 SEC. 201. SURVEY OF PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS.

14 (a) SURVEY.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban 15 Development shall provide for the conducting of a survey, by an independent entity or organization, to determine, 16 17 of the households who as of August 25, 2005, resided in public housing (as such term is defined in section 3(b) 18 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 19 201437a(b))) operated or administered by the Housing Au-21 thority of New Orleans, in Louisiana—

(1) which and how many such households intend to return to residence in such public housing or
a comparable unit, when presented with the options
of—

(A) returning to residence in a repaired
 public housing or comparable dwelling unit in
 New Orleans; or

4 (B) continuing to receive rental housing
5 assistance from the Federal Government; and
6 (2) when such households intend to return.

7 (b) PARTICIPATION OF RESIDENTS.—The Secretary
8 shall solicit recommendations from resident councils and
9 residents of public housing operated or administered by
10 such Housing Authority in designing and conducting the
11 survey under subsection (a).

12 (c) PROPOSED SURVEY DOCUMENT.—The Secretary 13 shall submit the proposed document to be used in con-14 ducting the survey to the Committee on Financial Services 15 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on 16 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate not 17 less than 10 business days before the commencement of 18 such survey.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report
the Committees referred to in subsection (c) detailing the
results of the survey conducted under subsection (a) not
later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this
Act.

## SEC. 202. RIGHT OF RETURN FOR PREVIOUS RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

3 (a) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE DWELLING UNITS.—
4 Not later than August 1, 2007, the Housing Authority of
5 New Orleans shall make available for occupancy, subject
6 to subsection (b), a number of dwelling units (including
7 those currently occupied) described in subsection (d) that
8 is not less than the greater of—

9 (1) 3,000; or

(2) the number of households who have indicated, in the survey conducted pursuant to section
201, that they intend to return to residence in public
housing operated or administered by such public
housing agency.

15 (b) RIGHT OF RETURN.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject only to subsection 17 (c), the Housing Authority of New Orleans shall 18 make available, upon the request of any household 19 who, as of August 25, 2005, was a tenant of public 20 housing operated or administered by such public 21 housing agency, occupancy for such household in a 22 dwelling unit provided pursuant to subsection (a). 23 As a condition of exercising a right under this para-24 graph to occupancy in such a dwelling unit, not later 25 than August 1, 2007, a tenant shall provide notice 26 to such Housing Authority of intent to exercise such

	0
1	right and shall identify a date that the tenant in-
2	tends to occupy such a dwelling unit, which shall not
3	be later than October 1, 2007.
4	(2) Preferences.—In making dwelling units
5	available to households pursuant to paragraph (1),
6	such Housing Authority shall provide preference to
7	each such household for occupancy in a dwelling unit
8	in the following locations, in the following order:
9	(A) A dwelling unit in the same public
10	housing project occupied by the household as of
11	August 25, 2005, if available.
12	(B) A dwelling unit in the same census
13	tract in which was located the public housing
14	dwelling unit occupied by the household as of
15	August 25, 2005, if available.
16	(C) A dwelling unit in a census tract adja-
17	cent to the census tract in which was located
18	the public housing dwelling unit occupied by the
19	household as of August 25, 2005, if available.
20	(D) A dwelling unit in the neighborhood in
21	which was located the public housing dwelling
22	unit occupied by the household as of August 25,
23	2005, if available.
24	(c) PROHIBITION OF EXCLUSION.—The Housing Au-
25	thority of New Orleans, and any other manager of replace-

ment dwelling units set forth in this section shall not, in-1 2 cluding through the application of any waiting list or eligi-3 bility, screening, occupancy, or other policy or practice, 4 prevent any household referred to in subsection (b)(1)5 from occupying a replacement dwelling unit provided pursuant to subsection (a), except to the extent that any other 6 7 provision of Federal law prohibits occupancy or tenancy 8 of such household in the type of housing of the replace-9 ment dwelling unit provided for such household.

10 (d) REPLACEMENT DWELLING UNITS.—A dwelling
11 unit described in this subsection is—

(1) a dwelling unit in public housing operated
or administered by the Housing Authority of New
Orleans; or

(2) a dwelling unit in other comparable housing
for which the amount required to be contributed by
the tenant for rent is comparable to the amount required to be contributed by the tenant for rental of
a comparable public housing dwelling unit.

(e) RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of
Housing and Urban Development shall provide, to each
household provided occupancy in a dwelling unit pursuant
to subsection (b), assistance under the Uniform Relocation
Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policy Act of

1 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.) for relocation to such dwell 2 ing unit.

#### 3 SEC. 203. ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT OF ALL PUBLIC 4 HOUSING DWELLING UNITS.

5 (a) CONDITIONS ON DEMOLITION.—After the date of the enactment of this Act, the Housing Authority of New 6 7 Orleans may not demolish or dispose of any dwelling unit 8 of public housing operated or administered by such agency 9 (including any uninhabitable unit and any unit previously 10 approved for demolition) except pursuant to a plan for replacement of such units in accordance with, and approved 11 by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development pur-12 13 suant to, subsection (b).

(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not
approve a plan that provides for demolition or disposition
of any dwelling unit of public housing referred to in subsection (a) unless—

18 (1) such plan is developed with the active par-19 ticipation of the resident councils of, and residents 20 of public housing operated or administered by, such 21 Housing Authority and with the City of New Orle-22 ans, at every phase of the planning and approval 23 process, through a process that provides opportunity 24 for comment on specific proposals for redevelopment, 25 demolition, or disposition;

1	(2) not later than 60 days before the date of
2	the approval of such plan, such Housing Authority
3	has convened and conducted a public hearing re-
4	garding the demolition or disposition proposed in the
5	plan;
6	(3) such plan provides that for each such dwell-
7	ing unit demolished or disposed of, such public hous-
8	ing agency will provide an additional dwelling unit
9	through—
10	(A) the acquisition or development of addi-
11	tional public housing dwelling units; or
12	(B) the acquisition, development, or con-
13	tracting (including through project-based assist-
14	ance) of additional dwelling units that are sub-
15	ject to requirements regarding eligibility for oc-
16	cupancy, tenant contribution toward rent, and
17	long-term affordability restrictions which are
18	comparable to public housing units;
19	(4) such plan provides for the implementation
20	of a right for households to occupancy housing in ac-
21	cordance with section 202;
22	(5) such plan provides priority in making units
23	available under paragraph (3) to residents identified
24	in section 201;

(6) such plan provides that the proposed demo lition or disposition and relocation will be carried out
 in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing,
 as described in subsection (e) of section 808 of the
 Civil Rights Act of 1968; and

6 (7) to the extent that such plan provides for the 7 provision of replacement or additional dwelling units, 8 or redevelopment, in phases over time, such plan 9 provides that the ratio of dwelling units described in 10 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) that 11 are provided in any such single phase to the total 12 number of dwelling units provided in such phase is 13 not less than the ratio of the aggregate number of 14 such dwelling units provided under the plan to the 15 total number of dwelling units provided under the 16 plan.

17 (c) MONITORING.—The Secretary of Housing and 18 Urban Development shall provide for the appropriate field offices of the Department to monitor and supervise en-19 20 forcement of this section and plans approved under this 21 section and to consult, regarding such monitoring and en-22 forcement, with resident councils of, and residents of pub-23 lic housing operated or administered by, the Housing Au-24 thority of New Orleans and with the City of New Orleans.

## 1SEC. 204. REPORTS ON PROPOSED CONVERSIONS OF PUB-2LIC HOUSING UNITS.

3 Not later than the expiration of the 15-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the 4 5 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House 6 7 of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Hous-8 ing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a detailed report 9 identifying all public housing projects located in areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Rita of 2005, for which 10 11 plans exist to transfer ownership to other entities or agencies. Such report shall include the following information 12 13 for each such project:

14 (1) The name and location.

- 15 (2) The number of dwelling units.
- 16 (3) The proposed new owner.
- 17 (4) The existing income eligibility and rent pro-18 visions.
- 19 (5) Duration of existing affordability restric-20 tions.
  - (6) The proposed date of transfer.
- (7) Any other relevant information regardingthe project.

21

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out activities eligible for funding under the Capital Fund under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) for the repair and rehabilitation of public housing of the Housing Authority of New Orleans.

#### 9 SEC. 206. COMPLIANCE OF EXISTING REQUESTS FOR PRO-10 POSALS.

11 Each request for qualification or proposal issued be-12 fore the date of the enactment of this Act with respect 13 to any public housing operated or administered by the Housing Authority of New Orleans shall, notwithstanding 14 any existing terms of such requests, be subject to and 15 16 comply with all provisions of this title and, to the extent necessary to so comply, such Housing Authority shall re-17 18 issue such requests.

#### 19 SEC. 207. REPORTS ON COMPLIANCE.

Not later than the expiration of the 30-day period
beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and
not later than the expiration of each calendar quarter
thereafter, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit a detailed report regarding compliance
with the requirements of this title, including the resident
participation requirement under section 203(b)(1), to the

Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep resentatives, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
 Urban Affairs of the Senate, the resident councils of, and
 residents of public housing operated or administered by,
 the Housing Authority of New Orleans, and the City of
 New Orleans.

## 7 TITLE III—DISASTER VOUCHER 8 PROGRAM AND PROJECT9 BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

#### 10 SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF DVP PROGRAM.

11 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Dis-12 aster Voucher Program of the Department of Housing and 13 Urban Development, established pursuant to Public Law 109-148 (119 Stat. 2779) and the authority of the Sec-14 15 retary of Housing and Urban Development to waive requirements under section 8 of the United States Housing 16 17 Act of 1937 in administering assistance under such pro-18 gram, shall be extended until January 1, 2008.

#### 19 SEC. 302. CLARIFICATION OF VOUCHER ALLOCATION FOR-

20

#### MULA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.

In carrying out section 21033 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, to provide renewal funding for tenant-based rental housing assistance under section & of the United States Housing Act of 1937 for each public housing agency, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make, for any public housing agency
 impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Rita, such adjustments
 as are appropriate to provide adequate funding to adjust
 for reduced voucher leasing rates and increased housing
 costs arising from such hurricanes.

#### 6 SEC. 303. PRESERVATION OF PROJECT-BASED HOUSING AS-

## 7 SISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACTS FOR 8 DWELLING UNITS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED.

9 (a) TOLLING OF CONTRACT TERM.—Notwith-10 standing any other provision of law, a project-based housing assistance payments contract for a covered assisted 11 12 multifamily housing project shall not expire or be termi-13 nated because of the damage or destruction of dwelling units in the project by Hurricane Katrina or Rita. The 14 15 expiration date of the contract shall be deemed to be the later of the date specified in the contract or a date ending 16 three months after the dwelling units in the project or in 17 18 a replacement project are first made habitable.

19 (b) OWNER PROPOSALS FOR Reuse OR RE-SITING.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-2021 ment shall promptly review and shall approve all feasible 22 proposals made by owners of covered assisted multifamily 23 housing projects submitted to the Secretary, not later than 24 October 1, 2007, that provide for the rehabilitation of the 25 project and the resumption of use of the assistance under the contract for the project, or, alternatively, for the trans fer, pursuant to subsection (c), of the contract or, in the
 case of a project with an interest reduction payments con tract, of the remaining budget authority under the con tact, to another multifamily housing project.

6 (c) TRANSFER OF CONTRACT.—In the case of any 7 covered assisted multifamily housing project, the Sec-8 retary of Housing and Urban Development shall, with the 9 concurrence of the State or unit of general local govern-10 ment in which the project is located—

(1) in the case of a project with a project-based
rental assistance payments contract described in
subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of subsection (d)(2),
transfer the contract to another appropriate and
habitable existing project or a project to be constructed (having the same or a different owner); and

17 (2) in the case of a project with an interest re-18 duction payments contract pursuant to section 236 19 of the National Housing Act, use the remaining 20 budget authority under the contract for interest re-21 duction payments to reduce financing costs with re-22 spect to dwelling units in other habitable projects 23 not currently so assisted, and such dwelling units 24 shall be subject to the low-income affordability re-25 strictions applicable to projects for which such payments are made under section 236 of the National
 Housing Act.

3 A project to which a project-based rental assistance pay-4 ments contract is transferred may have a different number 5 of units or bedroom configuration than the damaged or 6 destroyed project if approximately the same number of in-7 dividuals are expected to occupy the subsidized units in 8 the replacement project as occupied the damaged or de-9 stroyed project.

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) COVERED ASSISTED MULTIFAMILY HOUSING
PROJECT.—The term "assisted multifamily housing project that—
project" means a multifamily housing project that—
(A) as of the date of the enactment of this
Act, is subject to a project-based rental assistance payments contract (including pursuant to subsection (a) of this section); and

(B) that was damaged or destroyed by
Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita of 2005.
(2) PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACT.—The term "project-based rental
assistance payments contract" includes—

23 (A) a contract entered into pursuant to
24 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of
25 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f);

1	(B) a contract for project rental assistance
2	pursuant to section $202(c)(2)$ of the Housing
3	Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(c)(2));
4	(C) a contract for project rental assistance
5	pursuant to section $811(d)(2)$ of the Cranston-
6	Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act $(42$
7	U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); and
8	(D) an interest reduction payments con-
9	tract pursuant to section 236 of the National
10	Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–1).
11	SEC. 304. TENANT REPLACEMENT VOUCHERS FOR ALL
12	LOST UNITS.
13	There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year
14	2008 such sums as may be necessary to provide tenant
15	replacement vouchers under section 8 of the United States
16	
17	Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) for the number
17	Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) for the number of households that is equal to—
17	
	of households that is equal to—
18	of households that is equal to— (1) the number of assisted dwelling units
18 19	of households that is equal to— (1) the number of assisted dwelling units (whether occupied or unoccupied) located in covered
18 19 20	of households that is equal to— (1) the number of assisted dwelling units (whether occupied or unoccupied) located in covered assisted multifamily housing projects that are not
18 19 20 21	of households that is equal to— (1) the number of assisted dwelling units (whether occupied or unoccupied) located in covered assisted multifamily housing projects that are not approved for reuse or re-siting by the Secretary; plus
18 19 20 21 22	of households that is equal to— (1) the number of assisted dwelling units (whether occupied or unoccupied) located in covered assisted multifamily housing projects that are not approved for reuse or re-siting by the Secretary; plus (2) the number of public housing dwelling units

Act of 1937 (whether occupied or unoccupied), that
 will not be put back into use for occupancy; minus
 (3) the number of previously awarded enhanced
 vouchers for assisted dwelling units and tenant pro tection vouchers for public housing units covered
 under this section.

7 Any amounts made available pursuant to this section
8 shall, upon the request of a public housing agency for such
9 voucher assistance, be allocated to the public housing
10 agency based the number of dwelling units described in
11 paragraph (1) or (2) that are located in the jurisdiction
12 of the public housing agency.

## 13 SEC. 305. VOUCHER ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUS14 ING.

15 The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make available to the State of Louisiana or its des-16 17 ignee, upon request, 3,000 vouchers for rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 18 for the purpose of providing project-based rental assist-19 20ance for supportive housing dwelling units for elderly fam-21 ilies, persons with disabilities, or homeless persons. Such 22 vouchers may be made available from the vouchers author-23 ized under section 304, upon the concurrence of the appro-24 priate public housing agency.

### 1SEC. 306. TRANSFER OF DVP VOUCHERS TO PERMANENT2VOUCHER PROGRAM.

3 For purposes of allocating amounts made available for renewal of tenant-based assistance under section 8 of 4 5 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any voucher for rental assistance made available under the 6 7 Disaster Voucher Program referred to in section 301 of 8 this Act shall, as of the termination date of the Disaster 9 Voucher Program, be considered a voucher of the public 10 housing agency having jurisdiction of the area in which 11 such assisted family resides as of such termination date, for purposes of determining the number of leased units 12 13 and costs (or any other baseline based on previous vouchers available or used) and any limitation on the number 14 15 of authorized units for such agency.

#### 16 SEC. 307. IDENTIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION OF DVP-ELI-

17

#### GIBLE HOUSEHOLDS NOT ASSISTED.

18 The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development 19 shall make a good faith effort to identify all households 20 who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, are eligi-21 ble for assistance under the Disaster Voucher Program re-22 ferred to in section 301 but are not assisted under such 23 program. Upon identification of each such household, the 24 Secretary shall(1) notify such household of the rights of the
 household to return a public housing or other as sisted dwelling unit; and

4 (2) to the extent that the family is eligible at
5 such time of identification, offer the household as6 sistance under the Disaster Voucher program.

## 7 TITLE IV—DAMAGES ARISING 8 FROM FEMA ACTIONS

9 SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO REIM-

10BURSE LANDLORDS FOR DAMAGES DUE TO11FEMA MANAGEMENT OF CITY LEASE PRO-12GRAM.

13 There are authorized to be appropriated, from 14 amounts made available before the date of the enactment 15 of this Act under any provision of law to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster relief under 16 17 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Emergency Assist-18 ance Act, such sums as may be necessary for the Secretary 19 of Housing and Urban Development to provide reimbursement to each landlord who participated in the city lease 20 21 program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency 22 pursuant to section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster 23 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) 24 in the amount of actual, documented damages incurred

- 1 by such landlord as a result of abrogation by such Agency
- 2 of commitments entered into under such program.