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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to allow certain grantees to use Community Development Block Grant amounts for natural disaster mitigation activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LICCARDO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to allow certain grantees to use Community Development Block Grant amounts for natural disaster mitigation activities, 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 “Ounce of Prevention
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**
2 **AMOUNTS FOR NATURAL DISASTER MITIGA-**
3 **TION ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Housing and Community De-
5 velopment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (1) in section 101(e)—

8 (A) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-
9 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(10) the mitigation of threats to the health
12 and welfare of a community posed by weather-re-
13 lated disaster and hazard events.”;

14 (2) in section 102(a), by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(25) The term ‘mitigation activities’ means ac-
17 tivities that increase resilience to disasters and re-
18 duce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life,
19 injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering
20 and hardship, by lessening the impact of future dis-
21 asters.”;

22 (3) in section 104(b)(3), by inserting “support
23 mitigation of threats to the health and welfare of a
24 community posed by weather-related disaster and
25 hazard events,” after “blight,”; and

26 (4) in section 105—

1 (A) in subsection (a)—

2 (i) in paragraph (26), by striking the
3 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
4 and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(27) natural disaster mitigation activities, in-
8 cluding new construction and rehabilitation of struc-
9 tures, if the grantee—

10 “(A) includes within the consolidated plan
11 submitted under part 91 of title 24, Code of
12 Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-
13 tion, that the grantee is in a high risk area, and
14 the Secretary certifies such risk, according to—

15 “(i) the National Risk Index devel-
16 oped by the Federal Emergency Manage-
17 ment Agency; or

18 “(ii) a natural hazard risk index
19 maintained by the State in which the
20 grantee is located; and

21 “(B) describes in such consolidated plan
22 how such activities will address natural disaster
23 mitigation needs.”; and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(i) USE OF GRANTS FOR NATURAL DISASTER MITI-
2 GATION.—

3 “(1) EFFECT ON AGGREGATION STANDARDS.—

4 A grantee that uses grant amounts for natural dis-
5 aster mitigation activities as described in subsection
6 (a)(27) may treat housing units assisted under that
7 activity—

8 “(A) as a single structure with respect to
9 meeting criteria for national objects as de-
10 scribed in section 570.208 of title 24, Code of
11 Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-
12 tion; and

13 “(B) as exempted from any aggregate
14 standards for public benefit as described in sec-
15 tion 570.209 of title 24, Code of Federal Regu-
16 lations, or any successor regulation.

17 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
18 shall provide technical assistance to grantees that
19 use grant amounts for natural disaster mitigation
20 activities as described in subsection (a)(27).”.

21 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Hous-
23 ing and Urban Development shall issue rules to include—

24 (1) mitigation efforts in areas with potential for
25 natural disaster risk—

1 (A) as an activity designed to meet com-
2 munity development needs having a particular
3 urgency, as described in section 570.208(c) of
4 title 24, Code of Federal Regulations; and

5 (B) as criteria for national objects as de-
6 scribed in section 570.483 of title 24, Code of
7 Federal Regulations; and

8 (2) threats posed by documented weather-re-
9 lated disaster or hazard risks as a serious and im-
10 mediate threat to the health or welfare of the com-
11 munity, as described in such section.