

National Coordination on Adaptation and Resilience for Security (NCARS) Act

U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-Delaware) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)
U.S. Representatives Scott Peters (D-California) and María Elvira Salazar (R-Florida)

Topline: A federal strategy to increase resiliency and protect Americans from natural disasters.

Key Points:

- The NCARS Act lays out a clear strategy and plan to shore up American resiliency.
- This bill consolidates government efforts to promote efficiency in disaster planning.
- This proactive approach is a critical and fiscally responsible investment in our future.

The Problem: Vulnerable communities face increasing risk from flooding, wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter storms. Not only does this threaten human health, but it also puts property and critical infrastructure at risk.

- **Rising Costs:** The costs of dealing with disasters are increasing by an average of more than \$225 billion each decade since 1980. Last year, total disaster damages in the U.S. reached \$165 billion.
- **Poor Coordination:** The federal government currently has a siloed approach to disaster preparedness, with funds spread across at least 17 federal agencies. Many of these efforts are duplicative.
- **Poor Fiscal Responsibility:** According to FEMA, each dollar invested in resilience saves roughly \$6 when disaster strikes. Preparing our communities is a responsible investment.
- **A Piecemeal Strategy Leaves Us Vulnerable:** While many states have successfully initiated state resiliency plans through Chief Resilience Officers (including FL, LA, and SC), the lack of a true national strategy leaves American communities unprotected from future disasters.

What the NCARS Act does:

- Sets a National Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and an Implementation Plan with federal, state, local, private sector, and non-profit partners.
- Establishes a Chief Resilience Officer in the White House to implement the plan.
- Creates interagency working groups to streamline efforts and ensure accountability.
- Creates a federal information hub to streamline resilience resources to communities.

Support: The Pew Charitable Trusts, Taxpayers for Common Sense, Team Rubicon, The Nature Conservancy, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, Environmental Defense Fund, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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