



The Relief Without Delay Agenda

Office of U.S. Congressman Wesley Bell

Across the country, communities continue to face increasingly frequent and devastating natural disasters. Unfortunately, our federal governments' disaster response and relief system is not structured to accommodate recent bureaucratic challenges and gridlock. We must ensure that federal disaster response and recovery policies are never interrupted by political delays.

To fix this, I am introducing the Relief Without Delay Act, comprehensive legislation that strengthens our nation's disaster preparedness, response, and long-term recovery while ensuring that disaster survivors are never caught in the middle of a government shutdown. My bill ensures that lifesaving disaster response continues uninterrupted regardless of the appropriations process.

The Relief Without Delay Act would:

- Ensure FEMA can continue disaster response and recovery operations during a lapse in funding.
- Protect DRF from being diverted or withheld during a government shutdown.
- Improve transparency by requiring regular public reporting on Disaster Relief Fund obligations, disbursements, pending projects, and funding delays.
- Require HUD to conduct timely unmet-needs assessments following major disasters to better identify housing, infrastructure, and economic recovery needs.
- Strengthen national tornado preparedness by investing in improved forecasting technologies, modern warning systems, community resilience grants, and enhanced coordination between NOAA, FEMA, and state and local emergency managers.

When disaster strikes, families cannot afford delays in emergency assistance because Congress has failed to keep the government open. Recent shutdown threats have exposed unnecessary uncertainty surrounding FEMA operations and disaster recovery funding not uncertainty driven by political brinkmanship. This legislation helps ensure that emergency response remains focused where it belongs: helping families recover and rebuilding communities.