

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 3, 2025

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Request for Emergency Declaration for the State of Louisiana in Response to the January 1, 2025 Terrorist Attack in New Orleans

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully request expedited approval of Governor Jeff Landry's request for an emergency declaration for the State of Louisiana under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.35, in response to the January 1, 2025, terrorist attack in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

This terrorist attack caused significant harm to our visitors and residents, disrupted essential services, and overwhelmed local and state resources. The attack occurred while the city was hosting and preparing for several large-scale events, including the Sugar Bowl and related events during the week of New Year's Day, as well as Super Bowl LIX and the annual Carnival season in the coming weeks. These events attract tourists from around the nation and the world. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has designated Super Bowl LIX as a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) Level 1, a significant event that requires extensive federal interagency support and state and local resources.

At this time, the attack has resulted in the deaths of at least fifteen (15) individuals, numerous additional injuries, and substantial damage to public and private property. Key infrastructure, including major transportation routes and emergency services in the downtown area of New Orleans, have been severely impacted.

The State of Louisiana and its partners have fully responded to this crisis. However, the magnitude and complexity of the situation exceed their capacity to manage without federal assistance. As local and federal law enforcement work to find additional details on the attack, including tracking additional potential Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and potentially other security threats, additional immediate federal support is critical to protect lives, restore essential services, and mitigate the potential for further harm.

On January 2, 2025, Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry officially requested that you declare an emergency and activate all federal programs available to respond to this incident. Specifically, Governor Landry asked for Public Assistance, Category B, Emergency Protective Measures, including Direct Federal Assistance, to help with the necessary protective measures as state and local authorities respond to this terrorist attack. Additionally, the Governor has requested Individual Assistance, limited to crisis counseling, for those impacted by this heinous crime.

Thank you for urgently considering this request. The people of Louisiana appreciate your support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



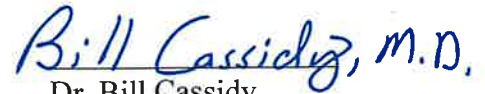
Troy A. Carter Sr.
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Majority Leader



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Dr. Bill Cassidy
United States Senator



Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress