

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATORS NEVERS, ALARIO, JACKSON, LONG, MURRAY AND PETERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact laws to establish, implement, and ensure that universal communication is at all times and at all places available to warn the American people of imminent and impending dangers.

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States should enact laws to establish and implement an effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive system that will alert and warn the American people in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to public health, safety and well-being, taking appropriate account of the functions, capabilities, needs of all people, the private sector and of all governments, so as to ensure that, under all conditions, universal communication is at all times and at all places available to warn the American people of imminent and impending dangers; and

WHEREAS, Congress should investigate and conduct hearings to inventory, evaluate, and assess capabilities and integration with the public alert and warning system of federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local public alert and warning resources; and

WHEREAS, Congress should establish or adopt common alerting and warning protocols, standards, technology, and operating procedures that are effective without the necessity of maintaining a database of contact information (while protecting privacy of all Americans) and for the public alert and warning system to enable interoperability and the secure delivery of coordinated messages to the American people through as many communication pathways as practicable, utilizing today's technology so as to guarantee the delivery of warnings and alerts in a timely manner to the entire population when surface infrastructure does not exist, has been compromised, or otherwise rendered ineffective; and

WHEREAS, Congress should ensure the capability to adapt the distribution and content of communications on the basis of clearly defined geographic locations, risks, or personal user preferences, as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Congress should provide that any public alert and warning system is capable of alerting and warning all Americans, including those with disabilities and those who lack an understanding of the English language, in the most remote geographic areas of America and its territories; and

WHEREAS, Congress should, through cooperation with the owners and operators of communication facilities, maintain, protect, and, if necessary, restore communications facilities and capabilities necessary for the public alert and warning system; and

WHEREAS, Congress should establish training, annual tests, and exercises for the public alert and warning system, and provide for direct access thereto by appropriate federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, Congress should ensure the conduct of public education efforts so that federal, state, territorial, tribal, local governments, the private sector, and the American people understand the functions of the public alert and warning system and how to access, use, and respond to information issued through all public alert and warning systems and devices; and

WHEREAS, Congress should require all governments, federal, state, local, territorial, and media communication organizations to consult, coordinate, and cooperate with the private sector, including emergency response providers and users, as appropriate for the full implementation of a state of the art early warning and alert system; and

WHEREAS, Congress should, in performing the functions set forth above, coordinate with all appropriate departments and agencies of all governments referenced in this Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana, in session duly assembled, memorializes the Congress of the United States of America, and the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress in particular, to expedite a solution that will provide public alert and warning in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to public safety and well-being to all people of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to all sitting members of Louisiana's delegation to the Congress of the United States of America.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES