

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write in support of Governor Edward's appeal of the denial of an adjustment in the federal share of Public Assistance costs from 75 to 90 percent for DR-4263. Granting this request is a critical step in order to help Louisiana recover from successive disasters that have impacted our State in 2016.

We thank you for your commitment to assist Louisiana during this recovery and for the cost share adjustment you recently granted for DR-4277. As you know, granting a cost share adjustment for Public Assistance funds recognizes that the scale of a declared disaster is too great for state and local governments to absorb 25 percent of the recovery costs. In previous letters we highlighted how the computation for determining a cost share adjustment for DR-4263 only considered the immediate impact of the specific declared disaster, however, given the successive and similar nature of the August flood and the cumulative impact that both events have had on state and local resources, we believed amending DR-4263 to adjust the cost share was warranted.

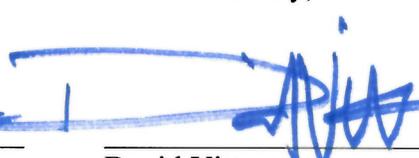
Unfortunately, the costs from both the March and August floods continue to rise, and the challenge that the State and local governments face in responding is exacerbated by a strained state budget that is tasked with assisting similar, contemporaneous disasters with different federal cost shares. Though a cost share adjustment for a single disaster goes a long way in providing the resources needed to rebuild, refusing to recognize the severity of other disasters similar in time, nature and geography may well afford only partial relief and leave the State and local governments with insufficient resources necessary to rebuild. Therefore, we ask that you take into account these realities and reconsider your denial of the Governor's request to grant DR-4263 an adjustment in the federal share of Public Assistance costs to 90 percent.

Thank you again for your commitment to helping Louisiana during this difficult time. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your Administration to ensure that Louisiana has the resources it needs to recover from the devastation that has hit our State in 2016.

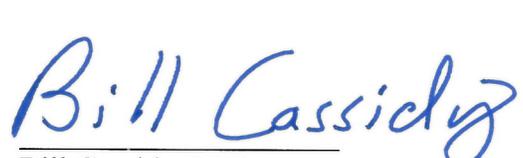
Sincerely,



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



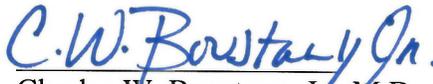
David Vitter
U.S. Senator



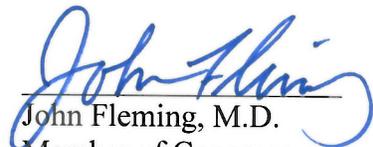
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress