National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution In Support Of Healthcare Ready

WHEREAS in the past decade, there have been more than 1,412 federally-declared disasters, including hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, ice storms and H1N1 pandemics;

WHEREAS, all citizens are entitled to a reasonable expectation of access to healthcare before, during, and after any domestic emergency or disaster;

WHEREAS, said disasters and public health emergencies have the potential to increase demand for healthcare to treat disaster-related injuries, and further disrupt the treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer, kidney disease, and others;

WHEREAS, this increased demand during a disaster or emergency requires public and private sector collaboration and information sharing;

WHEREAS, the nonprofit Healthcare Ready was created to help ensure continued access to healthcare during severe public health emergencies. Healthcare Ready leverages unique relationships with government, nonprofit and medical supply chains to build and enhance the resiliency of communities before, during and after disasters;

WHEREAS, Healthcare Ready (formerly Rx Response) was established in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina by the trade associations comprising the bio-pharmaceutical supply chain and the American Red Cross where a need was identified help to coordinate government agencies, biopharmaceutical manufacturers and other organizations to quickly and effectively address healthcare supply chain concerns before, during and after disasters;

WHEREAS as the convener of industry and government, Healthcare Ready safeguards patient health by providing solutions to critical problems and identifying best practices for healthcare preparedness and response;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NLGA encourages states to collaborate with Healthcare Ready as part of their state strategy for emergency preparedness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NLGA encourages states to educate their constituencies about the importance of individual preparedness, by utilizing the “Rx On The Run” toolkit, (www.healthcareready.org/rxontherun);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NLGA encourages state and local agency officials, and territories to share relevant information pertaining to their disaster planning, response, and recovery with the healthcare sector including Healthcare Ready, which serves as a single point of contact for emergency management and public health officials in the states.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Matt Michels, SD; Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, CT; Additional Co-Sponsors: