December 21, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The National Coalition on Children and Disasters is a community of over 25 child-serving national organizations that advocates for public policy that supports the well-being of children and their families in the preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made disasters.

As you work with your colleagues to finalize H.R. 1, we ask that you please strongly consider keeping the following items in a final bill:

- $17 billion for the Community Development Block Grant;
- $500 million for the Social Services Block Grant;
- $100 million for Head Start; and
- All provisions addressing the needs of children under the “Disaster Recovery Act of 2012” section

Children comprise nearly 25 percent of the population, yet in times of disaster their unique health and behavioral needs are frequently unmet or misunderstood. Hurricane Sandy devastated many communities in the northeast, and many homes, schools and child care centers were destroyed, or forced to remain uninhabitable or closed due to considerable structural damage.

In the aftermath of a disaster, it’s vital to reopen all public facilities, including schools and child care centers, as soon as possible to help residents move forward with their lives.

*The National Coalition on Children and Disasters advocates on behalf of policies that effectively ensure the well-being of children and their families in the preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made disasters in the United States.*
This legislation would greatly help these communities recover from this deadly Hurricane. In addition to providing crucial funds to rebuild homes, schools and day care facilities, H.R. 1 would also amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Care Act and give special consideration to children for essential assistance, as well as elevate child care to an essential and critical community service.

This bill would be critical towards holding the Federal government and its partners accountable to meeting the disaster-related needs of children.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on maintaining these provisions in the bill as it moves through the legislative process. As always, thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership in support of our nation’s 75 million children.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
Child Care Aware of America
Children’s Health Fund
Habitat for Humanity International
International Association of Emergency Medical Service Chiefs
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Center for Disaster Preparedness
Save the Children

The National Coalition on Children and Disasters advocates on behalf of policies that effectively ensure the well-being of children and their families in the preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made disasters in the United States.
December 21, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

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