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**KENNEDY AND ENZI PUT FORTH JOB TRAINING PLAN FOR VICTIMS OF
KATRINA**

PART OF COMPREHENSIVE BIPARTISAN RELIEF PACKAGE

Washington, DC: Today Senators Edward Kennedy and Mike Enzi offered the second part of their comprehensive Katrina relief package and introduced a bill that will help workers displaced by the disaster get back to work and rebuild their lives and communities. This bill, called the "Hurricane Katrina Employment and Training Assistance Act" expands employment and job training assistance authorized under the "Workforce Investment Act," to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The goal is to help rebuild the local economy and give benefits to local workers through local businesses.

"A group of us visited the Gulf Coast area last Friday and saw firsthand the immensity of the devastation. We know these proud hard-working men and women are anxious to become self-sufficient again as soon as possible. The nation has opened its heart to the victims of this vast tragedy, and we need to focus now on making sure that their towns, cities and parishes are ready for their return," said Senator Kennedy referring to his trip to Louisiana with thirteen of his Senate colleagues on Friday.

Kennedy is determined to rebuild the Gulf Coast not just as it was but to fulfill the true promise of the American Dream by committing ourselves to better health, better education and better job opportunities for them, and for all Americans. Today he met with leading African American ministers who, as messengers of the communities most affected by Hurricane Katrina, share this determination. On Thursday, Senators Kennedy and Enzi offered their education relief bill for the victims of Katrina and are expected to introduce health and labor proposals this week,

Below is a description of the bill:

S. 1718 Hurricane Katrina Employment and Training Assistance Act
Introduced on September 20, 2005 by Senators Enzi and Kennedy

This bill expands the National Emergency Grant authority authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (section 173) to address the needs of areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

States, local boards or Native American organizations within affected areas may submit applications to address the needs of workers by offering disaster relief employment and other assistance, including public sector employment, to individuals who were unemployed at the time

of the disaster, those who lack sufficient employment history, or those who lost their jobs due to the disaster.

The temporary employment shall be for up to six months and the Secretary may extend the employment for an additional six months.

In providing grants the Secretary shall give priority to States with the greatest impact and then to states that have received large numbers of dislocated residents.

States may also use the funds under these grants to offer needs-related payments to those who do not qualify for unemployment insurance.

Sense of the Congress

The bill includes a sense of the Congress that: (1) States that operate mobile one-stop centers should make them available for use in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and areas where large numbers of workers affected by the hurricane have relocated; and (2) One-stops in affected areas should expand service hours to meet the increased demand.

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