

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4**  
**OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT OF NEW YORK**

Page 306, after line 23, insert the following (and re-designate succeeding sections and make conforming amendments as necessary):

**1 SEC. 626. HOUSING VICTIMS OF MAJOR DISASTERS.**

2 (a) ELIGIBILITY FOR AND USE OF DISASTER HOUS-  
3 ING ASSISTANCE.—

4 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other  
5 provision of law, a family described in paragraphs  
6 (3) and (4) shall be eligible for housing assistance  
7 made available under section 408 of the Robert T.  
8 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) in connection with a major  
10 disaster declared pursuant to such Act, including  
11 Hurricane Maria of 2017.

12 (2) USE.—In the case of any housing assistance  
13 described in paragraph (1) that is made available in  
14 connection with a major disaster declared pursuant  
15 to such Act, including Hurricane Maria of 2017,  
16 such assistance may be used on behalf of families  
17 described in paragraph (3) for costs relating to ob-  
18 taining title for such families to properties described

1 in paragraph (3)(A), which shall include costs of  
2 land surveys and any other taxes or fees associated  
3 with transfer of the property.

4 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—With respect to a major dis-  
5 aster, a family described in this paragraph is a fam-  
6 ily who—

7 (A) is occupying an otherwise unused or  
8 uninhabited property located in the area for  
9 which the major disaster was declared but who  
10 does not have documented ownership rights to,  
11 and is not renting the property; or

12 (B) is renting a property located in the  
13 area for which the major disaster was declared  
14 but does not have a written lease for such rent-  
15 al.

16 In making a determination of whether occupancy or  
17 a rental tenancy exists for purposes of subparagraph  
18 (A) or (B), the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
19 gency Management Agency (referred to in this Act  
20 as FEMA) shall consider a wide range of evidence  
21 that demonstrates the existence of such occupancy  
22 or tenancy set forth in paragraph (4).

23 (4) ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF PROOF.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—In determining if an in-  
25 dividual or family is eligible for housing assist-

1           ance under paragraph (3), the Administrator  
2           shall consider a sworn and notarized affidavit  
3           written by a licensed attorney that affirms such  
4           occupancy or tenancy by the individual who  
5           owns, possesses, and maintains the house or  
6           land and the presentation of 1 of the following  
7           documents to affirm proof of ownership of the  
8           individual named in the affidavit:

9                   (i) A utility (gas, electric, or water)  
10                  bill with the name and address of the indi-  
11                  vidual.

12                  (ii) A merchant's statement (credit  
13                  card, delivery notice, or first class mail)  
14                  with the name and address of the indi-  
15                  vidual.

16                  (iii) A pay stub from an employer  
17                  with the name and address of the indi-  
18                  vidual.

19                  (iv) A current driver's license or  
20                  State-issued identification card of the indi-  
21                  vidual.

22                  (v) The deed or title for the home or  
23                  land.

24                  (vi) Mortgage payment booklet or  
25                  other mortgage documents.

1 (vii) Property title of mobile home  
2 certificate of title.

3 (viii) Real estate property tax receipts.

4 (ix) School registration for self, child,  
5 or children.

6 (x) Will and testament with the name  
7 and address.

8 (xi) Medical records that list the name  
9 and address of the individual.

10 (xii) Charitable donation receipts that  
11 list the name and address of the individual.

12 (xiii) Government assistance docu-  
13 ments.

14 (xiv) Any other documentation, certifi-  
15 cation, identification, or proof of occupancy  
16 or ownership not included on this list, that  
17 can reasonably link the person requesting  
18 assistance to the damaged property.

19 (xv) If records are unavailable due to  
20 damage from the disaster or any other cir-  
21 cumstance that impedes an individual from  
22 providing proof of ownership, the Adminis-  
23 trator shall request verification from the  
24 State or Federal agency with the written

1 permission of the individual or legally au-  
2 thorized representative of such individual.

3 (B) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—The Adminis-  
4 trator shall review again, any previous FEMA  
5 application submitted for housing assistance  
6 that was denied in 2017 or 2018.

7 (C) NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES.—Not  
8 later than 7 days after the date of enactment  
9 of this Act, the Administrator shall provide  
10 written notification and guidance to FEMA em-  
11 ployees regarding the requirements set forth in  
12 this section.

13 (b) FEMA DHAP AGREEMENTS.—

14 (1) 2017 DISASTERS.—Not later than 15 days  
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
16 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management  
17 Agency shall enter into an interagency agreement or  
18 agreements with the Secretary of Housing and  
19 Urban Development as may be necessary to ensure  
20 the implementation of a Disaster Housing Assist-  
21 ance Program to provide temporary rental assistance  
22 to families displaced from their residences by any  
23 major disaster declared during 2017 pursuant to the  
24 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
25 Assistance Act, including Hurricane Maria of 2017,

1 including families eligible for such assistance under  
2 subsection (a)(1) of this section.

3 (2) FUTURE DISASTERS.—In the case of any  
4 major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T.  
5 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) after the date of the  
7 enactment of this Act, not later than 60 days after  
8 such declaration the Administrator of the Federal  
9 Emergency Management Agency and the Secretary  
10 of Housing and Urban Development shall engage in  
11 consultations regarding the implementation of a Dis-  
12 aster Housing Assistance Program to provide tem-  
13 porary rental assistance to families displaced from  
14 their residences by the disaster, including families el-  
15 igible for such assistance under subsection (a)(1) of  
16 this section.

