

Approved: Al Ramirez 2-10-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Ramirez at 1:30 p.m. on February 4, 1993 in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
Fred Carman, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Don R. Paxson, Kansas State Board of Accountancy
Senator Langworthy
Teri Lee Buek, State Liaison, Kansas Capital Area Chapter,
American Red Cross
Gigi Felix, Executive Director, Kansas-National Association
of Social Workers
Jim DeHoff, Kansas AFL CIO

Chairman Ramirez called the meeting to order and stated the first order of business would be bill introduction. The first item to be considered dealt with interpreters. Representative Reynolds moved to introduce the bill. Senator Papay gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Don R. Paxson, CPA, Kansas State Board of Accountancy, was present to present a bill pertaining to accountancy for introduction.

Senator Harris moved to introduce the bill with a second by Senator Reynolds. The motion carried.

The committee directed its attention to **SB 96**.

Senator Langworthy, bill sponsor along with 38 others, spoke to the bill and said that several states have passed this type of legislation. Kansas has an extensive emergency management system, but does not have statutory authority to establish a policy or personnel regulation to allow paid leave for state employees to perform Red Cross Volunteer disaster work. The bill would allow, subject to a supervisor's approval, a state employee who is a Red Cross disaster trained volunteer, and has been requested by the Red Cross, to receive up to 20 days paid leave to help in major disasters in Kansas or the surrounding four states. (Attachment 1)

After Senator Langworthy's testimony, the question of a fiscal note was raised. The Senator stated that a fiscal note was being prepared by Kevin Darter, and it was her understanding it would arrive shortly.

Teri Buek, American Red Cross, Kansas Chapter, spoke in Support of the bill. She stated the organization has no federal funding, but has a mandate from the federal government to help those in need in times of disaster. She explained the involvement with VOAD, (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). Their prime resource for providing disaster relief is through trained employees. The state maintains control of whom they release for such volunteer assignments, thus not jeopardizing employment needs. She stated that a disaster such as the Andover tornado would be classified as a Level II operation. There are five levels, a five being a disaster such as Hurricane Andrew. (Attachment 2)

Ms. Buek was asked about medical coverage and personal liability. She answered the medical coverage question from the Red Cross manual. She thought that in the case of personal liability the Agency would be sued rather than the individual.

Discussion was held and questions asked in regard to making the bill nation-wide instead of Kansas and the surrounding four states. Senator Langworthy saw no objection to this.

A member of the committee wanted to know if it would be better to amend the bill on the floor of the Senate. The reply was that it might face the same fate it met last session.

Gigi Felix, National Association of Social Workers, appeared in support of the bill. Her organization has joined the American Red Cross at the national level to work with them in recruiting social workers for disaster relief services. Personnel can only be released for Level II disasters; the state must approve prior leave and the number of days an employee may be released for duty is twenty a year. Ms. Felix stated that the legislation has received support from the State's Division of Personnel. (Attachment 3)

Jim DeHoff, Executive Secretary, Kansas AFL CIO, spoke in support of the bill, and read from his testimony. (Attachment 4) He cited the Andover tornado as an example of the community pulling together and which included thousands of volunteer hours. This bill would only affect certified disaster service volunteers and it would have to be a Level II disaster.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, Room 531-N
Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on February 2, 1993.

An attachment by Nancy M. Echols, Director of Personnel Services, was distributed to the committee. Ms. Echols' testimony was in support of the bill. She was not present at the meeting. (Attachment 5)

As there were no other conferees on the bill, the Chairman called for action on the bill.
Senator Feleciano recommended SB 96 favorably for passage. Senator Gooch gave a second to the motion.

One of the committee members asked if an injured volunteer could file a workers compensation claim. Another asked what degree of risk might be involved for the state.

Ms. Buek replied that with this type of legislation being new it has not been an issue.

Another committee member commented that the volunteer would not be an employee of the state while working in that regard, it would be like a leave or vacation and workers compensation would not apply. It was decided to get more input on the matter before proceeding with the bill.

Senator Feleciano withdrew his motion and Senator Gooch his second.

Kevin Darter, Personnel Services, was present, but was of the impression that the fiscal note had already been sent to the capitol.

Staff will contact the appropriate people to reply to questions on this bill and inform Senator Langworthy and the committee. The fiscal note will be made available when it is received.

The committee directed its attention to **SB 5**, relating to the director of the division of health. Discussion ensued.

Senator Bogina moved to amend SB 5 beginning on line 31 after the word 'governor' and striking all unstricken words to the bottom of page 1 and all language down to and including line 9 on page 2. Senator Vidricksen gave a second to the motion.

Discussion ensued on the radical direction this amendment seemed to take. Staff indicated that this particular situation is specific to this position. After further discussion, the Chairman called for a vote on the amendment. A voice vote being unclear, the Chairman called for a show of hands. On a four-four vote, the Chairman broke the tie with a 'no' vote. The amendment failed.

Senator Lee moved to strike in line 22 the word 'or' and insert 'and'. Senator Reynolds gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairman stated that he would hold **SB 5** until he could visit with Dr. Harder. He stated the minutes of the February 2 meeting would be approved Monday, February 8.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 1993.

Senate GUEST LIST
: Gov Organization

DATE: 2-4-93

[illegible]

STATE OF KANSAS

AUDREY LANGWORTHY

SENATOR, 7TH DISTRICT
JOHNSON COUNTY

6324 ASH

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KANSAS 66208-1369

(913) 362-4067

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 143-N

TOPEKA, KS 66612-1504

(913) 296-7369



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

February 4, 1993

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN: ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION
VICE CHAIRMAN: PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
VICE CHAIRMAN: COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE AND QUALITY PERFORMANCE
MEMBER: EDUCATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING
MEMBER: CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Senator Ramirez, members of the committee, my interest in Senate Bill 96 comes from being a long-time Red Cross volunteer, and I am currently a member of the National Board of Governors, American Red Cross, headquartered in Washington, D.C. One of my major responsibilities has been to work in the area of government relations, an area of increasing importance in the not-for-profit arena.

This bill passed the Senate 40-0 last year and then died on the House floor during the veto session. Illinois, Ohio and Connecticut have passed this legislation. California, Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Texas currently have bills before their respective legislatures.

Under KSA 48-925 (c) (2), during a state of disaster emergency, the Governor may utilize all available resources of the state government and each political subdivision as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster. Kansas has an extensive emergency management system; however, the state does not have statutory authority to establish a policy or personnel regulation to allow paid leave for state employees to perform Red Cross Volunteer disaster work. This bill would allow, subject to a supervisor's approval, a state employee who is a Red Cross disaster trained volunteer, and has been requested by the Red Cross, to receive up to 20 days paid leave to help in major disasters in Kansas or the surrounding four states.

The Department of Personnel Services of the Governor's office is in full support and cooperation on this issue, and they have sent a letter which will be distributed.

I would now like to introduce to you Terri Buek, the Executive Director for the Topeka Red Cross and the state-wide governmental relations coordinator.

Audrey Langworthy
Attachment
2/4/93



American Red Cross

February 4, 1993

Kansas Capital
Area Chapter
1221 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604-2899
(913) 234-0568
FAX (913) 233-3834

Dear Senator Ramirez and Members of the Governmental Organization Committee:

We wish to express support of **SENATE BILL NO. 96**, the disaster service volunteer leave act.

The Red Cross takes great pride in its federal mandate to be the voluntary organization responsible for relief activities in the time of disaster. It also is proud of its statement of understanding with the State of Kansas to provide for cooperation and coordination in carrying out our assigned responsibilities in the event of natural or man-made disasters. Such coordination and cooperation carries to our involvement and leadership role with the Kansas VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).

As the known leader in disaster response, our prime resource for providing relief to those suffering in times of disaster, is through trained volunteers. This bill would allow Red Cross trained state employees a release from their work in order to assist disaster victims. The state maintains the control of who they release for such a volunteer assignment - thus not jeopardizing the states employment needs. The Red Cross benefits by having a dedicated group of trained volunteers available.

Senate Bill 96 is modeled after the unanimously passed Illinois bill. That state is very enthusiastic about the law and is working diligently to assess interest and train state employees. Other states with similar laws are Connecticut, Ohio, Tennessee and North Carolina. Twelve other states are currently pending legislation.

Our bill suggests releasing state employees to serve on disaster operations in Kansas and the neighboring states. Many of our larger communities such as Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita are near enough to state borders, that a major disaster operation may encompass more than one state. A study of larger (Level II) disaster operations for the state of Kansas between 1980-1991, showed 22 operations. This is an average of about two per year.

Again, we encourage your strong consideration of this bill which would allow for Kansans to help Kansans in time of need.

Sincerely,

Teri Lee Buek
State Liaison



A United Way Agency

Attachment 2
2/4/93

Can you help after a disaster?

When a disaster strikes a family, a community, or a country, people want to help. Obviously, everyone does not have the time or ability to respond directly to the scene and give assistance. But almost everyone wants to do something to help those in need.

One way to help is to volunteer today with your local chapter. As a

trained disaster volunteer, you may be called on to help others when they need you most.

Another very important way to help is to send a financial contribution to your local Red Cross chapter earmarking it for the

Disaster Relief Fund." Your financial contribution—other than donations of often-unneeded items—insures that what is actually needed can be purchased in disaster-affected communities. It also enables disaster victims to pay for what they need to meet their emergency needs.

The Disaster Relief Fund assures that the Red Cross can provide assistance to individuals and families regardless of the type of disaster or where it occurs.

KANSAS CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER
1221 W. 17TH STREET
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66604
(913) 234-0568



What does the American Red Cross stand for?

The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross Movement. More than 250 million paid and volunteer staff are involved in Red Cross programs in virtually every country in the world.

The basic principles of the Red Cross are—

- Humanity.
- Impartiality.
- Neutrality.
- Independence.
- Voluntary Service.
- Unity.
- Universality.



American Red Cross



2-2

We're There When You Need Us

American Red Cross
Disaster Services

The American Red Cross is chartered by the U.S. Congress (Act of Congress of January 5, 1905, as amended, 36 U.S.C. Sections 1-9) to undertake relief activities to mitigate the suffering caused by disasters. It is a community-based, voluntary organization. There are almost 2,800 Red Cross chapters throughout all 50 states, U.S. possessions, and dependencies.

American Red Cross



For over 100 years the American Red Cross has been assisting people affected by disasters. The successful work of the Red Cross is made possible by thousands of volunteers and the generous financial contributions of the American people.

The American Red Cross is committed to making a positive difference by—

- Improving the quality of human life.
- Enhancing self-reliance and concern for others.
- Helping people avoid, prepare for, and cope with emergencies.



As a voluntary organization, the American Red Cross depends on the generosity of people for both their time and money to provide disaster relief. The Red Cross is an independent organization, not a government agency. All disaster relief given by the Red Cross is given free of charge as a gift from the American people.

The Red Cross doesn't wait until disaster strikes. It is prepared to respond to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, hazardous materials accidents, and other disasters. In fact, the Red Cross responds to more than 50,000 disasters every year.

When a disaster strikes, the Red Cross responds immediately. It does not need a government request to move into action. It works in cooperation with the government and other organizations to provide assistance.

How can you prepare yourself and your family before a disaster occurs?

First, you should know that disasters can and do strike every day and that no community or family is immune to disaster. You should learn as much as you can about potential disasters in your community, so you can avoid them or reduce their effects. The more you know, the better you'll be able to prepare for a disaster and, if disaster strikes, the better you'll be able to cope.

Your local Red Cross chapter can provide you with more information on how to prepare for and stay safe during a disaster. Your chapter can train you in first aid and CPR and let you know more about the range of services offered in your community.



What does the American Red Cross actually do in disasters?

The most well-known disaster relief activities are sheltering, feeding, and giving first aid to those seeking refuge from a hurricane or flood or in the wake of a tornado, earthquake, or hazardous materials incident.

In addition to these services, the core of Red Cross disaster relief activities is the assistance given to individuals and families affected by disaster. This assistance is geared toward meeting immediate emergency needs. It is also where the majority of your financial contributions go.

The Red Cross enables victims of disaster to resume living independently by providing the means for them to pay for what they need most—from groceries, new clothing, and rent to emergency home repairs, transportation, household items, medicines, and tools. The Red Cross also helps those needing long-term recovery assistance when other resources are not available or are inadequate.



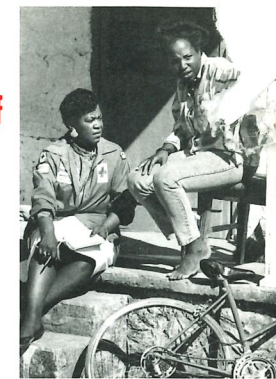
All assistance is given on a standardized basis, depending on the verified disaster-caused needs of the individual or family.

Red Cross disaster relief work also includes—

- Feeding emergency workers.
- Referring those affected by disaster to other available resources.
- Handling inquiries from concerned family members outside the disaster area.
- Providing blood and blood products to disaster victims.

Who provides the disaster services of the American Red Cross?

A cadre of trained Red Cross paid and volunteer staff continually work to be ready to

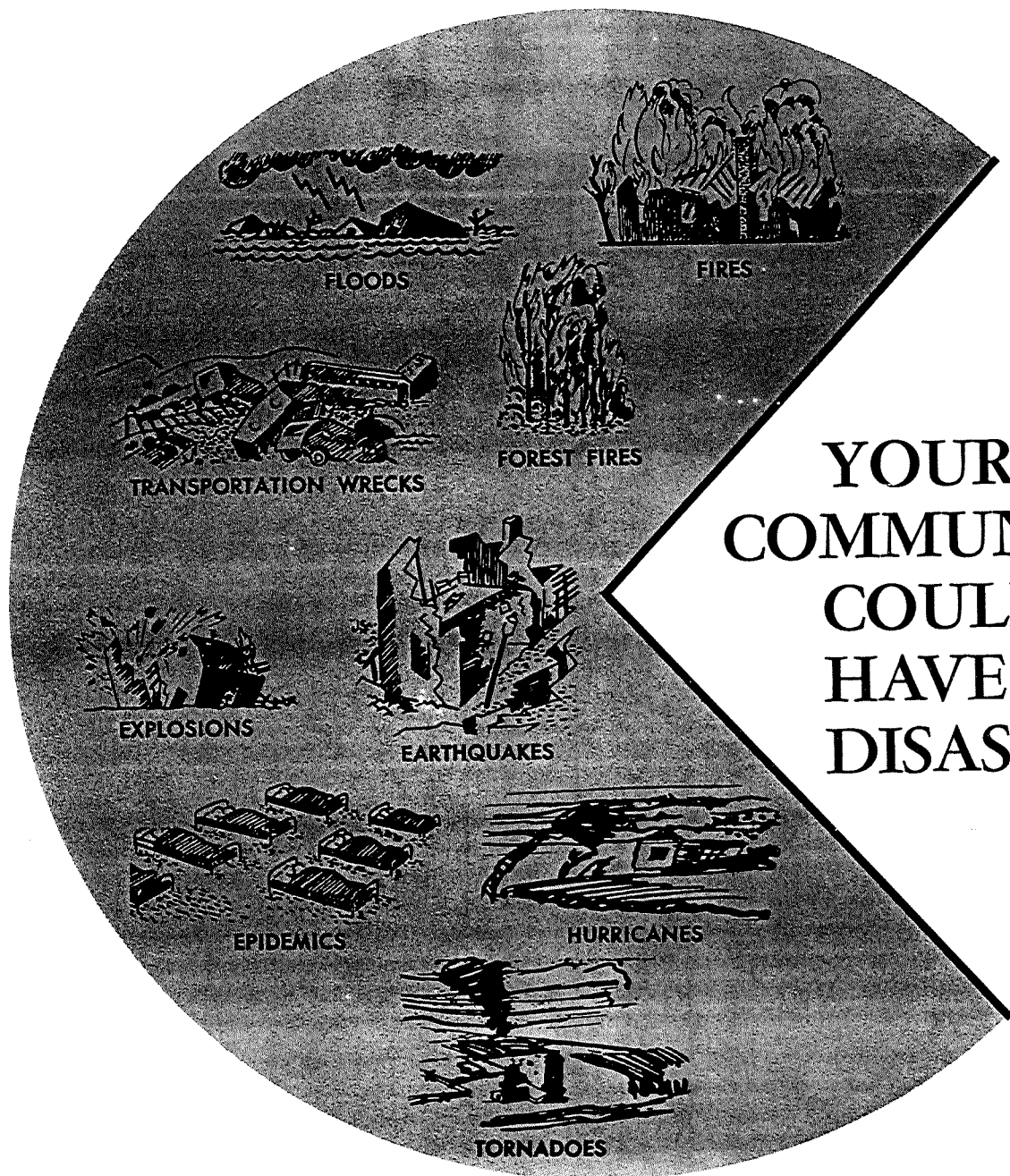


respond when a disaster threatens or strikes. Red Cross workers come from all walks of life and all segments of the community. The only thing they have in common is the willingness to serve and the desire to help those in need. Trained Red Cross disaster workers might—

- Be part of a team that determines the level of damage to homes in a disaster area.
- Work in a shelter or on a mobile feeding van providing hot meals to a disaster-stricken community.
- Move urgently needed vehicles and supplies across the country.
- Interview individuals and families to determine how they were affected by the disaster and how the Red Cross can best meet their needs.
- Work with Disaster Health Services to give first aid and other health assistance to disaster victims.
- Help provide the media with the most current information on the disaster and how the Red Cross is responding.
- Provide computer, communications, or accounting support.
- Do community presentations to help people prepare for disaster.
- Train others how to provide disaster services.

American Red Cross

KANSAS CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER
1221 W. 17TH STREET
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66604
(913) 234-0568



RESPONSIBILITIES IN NATURAL DISASTERS*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

DISASTER COORDINATOR

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT

Protection of life and property, public health and welfare, repair or replacement of public property, and help to disaster victims (Financed by public agencies from tax funds)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RED CROSS

The relief of persons in need as a result of disaster
(Financed by Red Cross from voluntary contributions)

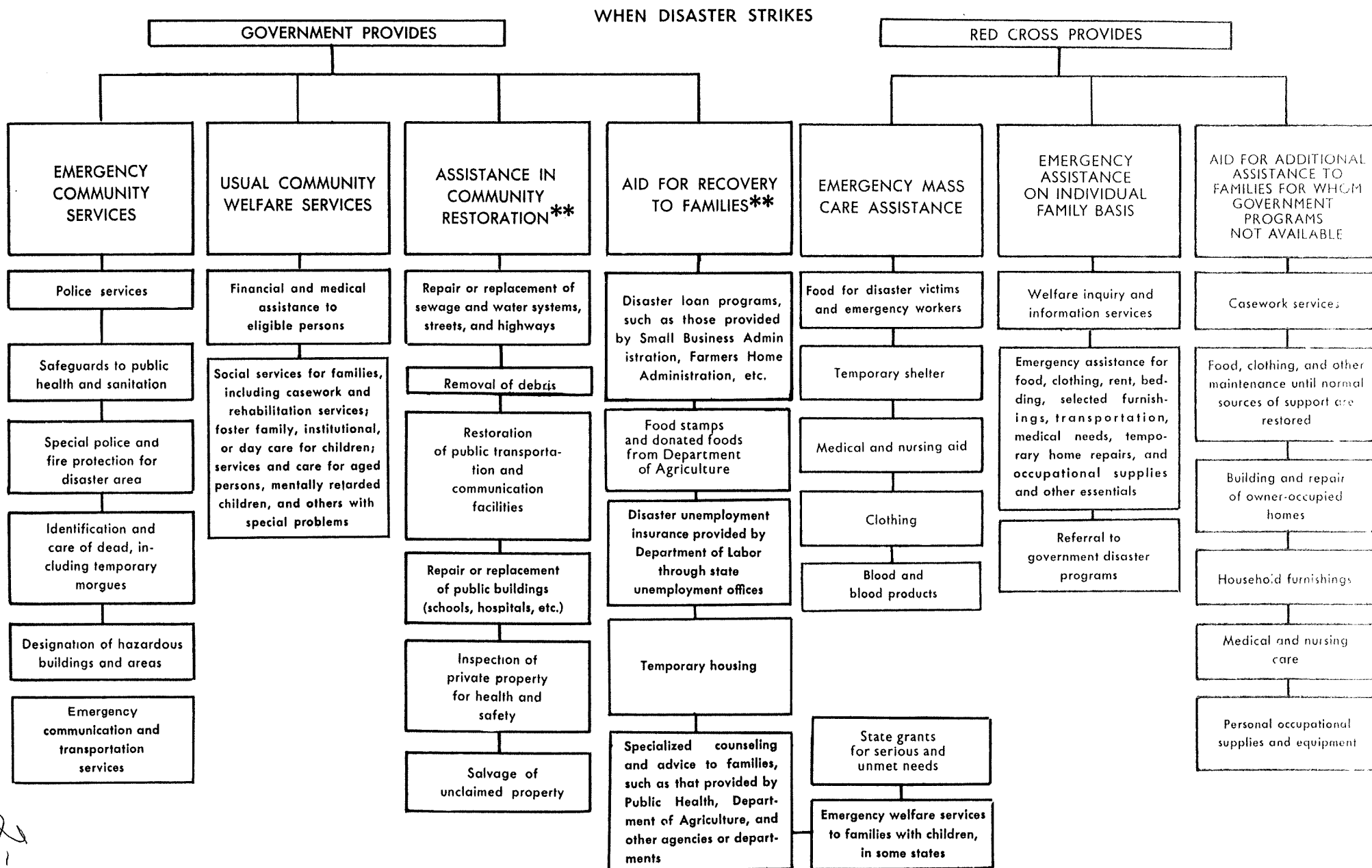
GOVERNMENT

Issues official warnings and designates hazardous zones
Enforces evacuation from threatened areas
Provides means of rescue and evacuation and directs these means
Organizes and coordinates all government departments and agencies

WHEN DISASTER THREATENS

RED CROSS

Assists government agencies in disseminating official warnings
Coordinates Red Cross resources for voluntary evacuation
Mobilizes trained volunteers to assist in rescue
Transports and temporarily stores household goods
Assists in coordination of voluntary agencies' relief efforts



* The chart shows how distinct and yet how closely related are the responsibilities of Red Cross and of government in natural disasters.

** Some of these programs are activated only after a Presidential Declaration of a major disaster. Federal disaster assistance is coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Red Cross and government are both needed to perform disaster functions.

THE RED CROSS JOB DURING A DISASTER

When floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters threaten, or immediately on their occurrence, the Red Cross provides food, clothing, shelter, blood and blood products, and medical and nursing or hospital care on the basis of evident need. Fre-

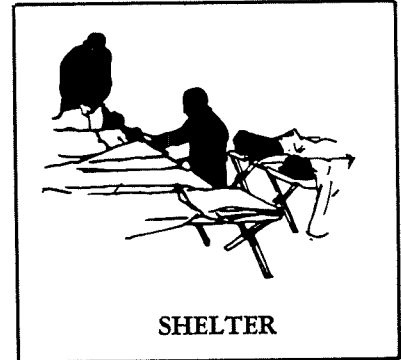
quently this assistance is given to large numbers of people on a mass care basis, but, whenever possible, the Red Cross deals directly with each family on an individual basis.



FOOD



FIRST AID



SHELTER

HOW RED CROSS GIVES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES

When disaster victims can resume living as family units, Red Cross will provide emergency assistance with food, clothing, rent, transportation, temporary home repairs, medical and health needs, selected furnishings, and personal occupational supplies and equipment, and other essentials. Red Cross refers

families to government disaster programs, provides additional assistance with major needs to families for whom such programs are not available. This aid may include building and repair, replacement of essential household furnishings, and other help.



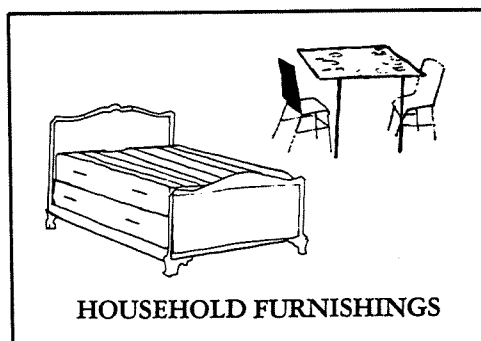
FOOD, CLOTHING &
OTHER MAINTENANCE



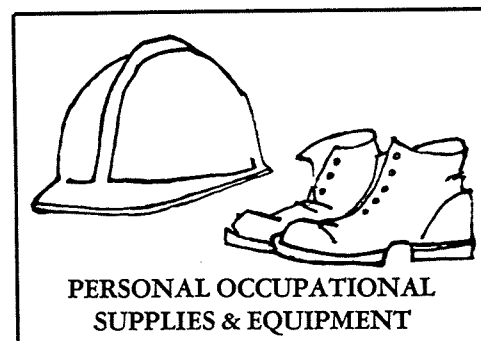
MEDICAL, NURSING &
HOSPITAL CARE



BUILDING & REPAIR



HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS



PERSONAL OCCUPATIONAL
SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

RED CROSS
Assistance to disaster victims
is given—not loaned.

No repayment of any kind is asked or expected.



National Association of Social Workers

KANSAS CHAPTER

TO: Senate committee on Governmental Affairs
FROM: Gigi Felix, LMSW
Executive Director, K-NASW
DATE: February, 1993

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB96

Good afternoon Senator Ramirez and members of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. I am Gigi Felix, LMSW, the executive director of the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (K-NASW). I appear before you today in strong support of SB96. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) joined the American Red Cross at the national level in a cooperative agreement to work with them in recruiting social workers for disaster relief services (please see attached copy of the agreement). The Kansas chapter has spearheaded the national cooperative agreement at the state level by enlisting volunteers through the unit structure of our professional association for the disaster relief efforts of the red cross. We currently have a roster of professional social workers trained in disaster services in Topeka, Kansas City, Lawrence, and Wichita.

The legislation before you is responsive to the needs of the American Red Cross, the designated disaster relief organization, the victims of a disaster, and the needs of the state. The legislation reflects careful structure in its requirements; namely:

- * personnel can only be released for Level II+ disasters. Teri Buek of the Red Cross will explain what this means to you;
- * the state agency must approve the leave prior to the worker's release. This takes into account the needs of the agency, the constituent needs being provided by the agency, and the work load in effect at the time; and,
- * the number of days the employee may be released for duty is capped at 20 working days in any calendar year.

This legislation has received the support from the State's Division of Personnel, who has reviewed it and determined that this will not create a hardship on the state agencies if employees are released. It allows Kansans to help our fellow Kansans, and those of our Mid Western neighbors.

In summary, the 1700+ members of the Kansas Chapter of NASW whole heartedly support this bill, and sincerely hope you all will too.

Thank you for your time today, I will be glad to stand for questions if you have any.

G.O. Comm.
Attachment 3
2/4/93

**Statement of Understanding
between the
National Association of Social Workers
and the
American National Red Cross**

JUL 17
FEB 02 1993

I. Purpose

This Statement of Understanding establishes a mutually beneficial basis of cooperation between the American National Red Cross and the National Association of Social Workers, joining together in areas of common interest to better serve the American people.

II. Organization of the American Red Cross

By an act of Congress on January 5, 1905, the American Red Cross was granted a charter under which it is designated the nationwide agency through which the American people voluntarily extend assistance to individuals and families in need. It is a multipurpose, voluntary health and social welfare organization providing human services through chapters and Blood Services regions, and worldwide through field stations on U.S. military installations.

The national headquarters of the American Red Cross is located in Washington, D.C. National headquarters is responsible for implementing policies and procedures that govern Red Cross activities, for giving administrative and technical supervision, and guidance to chapters and other national sector units in specified geographical jurisdictions.

The chapter, the local unit of the Red Cross, is responsible for all Red Cross activities within its territory, subject to the policies and procedures of the corporation. There are approximately 2800 chapters across the United States.

III. Organization of the National Association of Social Workers

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) was established in 1955 when seven social work professional organizations joined to form one national association to represent the profession. Since that time, NASW has grown to be the world's largest organization of professional social workers with a membership of over 135,000 social workers in 55 chapters in 50 states. NASW members are professional social workers who work in a variety of settings — military bases, child welfare agencies, hospitals, schools, community health and mental health centers, nursing, job training centers, international development agencies, and others.

NASW's purpose, broadly stated, is to strengthen the social fabric through the pursuit of sound social policies and high quality human services. NASW has a special concern about ensuring the provision of appropriate, quality services to individuals and families and improving the quality of life in the broader community.

NASW is governed by a National Board of Directors which meets quarterly, and a Delegate Assembly, which is convened every three years to determine the Association's broad goals and priorities. However, many of the association's important initiatives occur at the chapter level. Members of NASW reside not only in the United States and its North American neighbor, Canada, but also around the globe.

Organization-wide activities such as the nation-wide Public Service Campaign are designed to raise public consciousness about pressing social issues. The current two-year (1989-1991) campaign is "Family Ties," focusing on strengthening families.

IV. Means of Cooperation

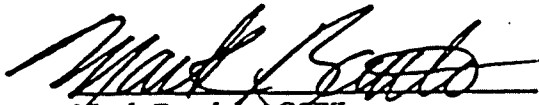
1. Mark Battle, Executive Director of NASW, and James Hladecek, Acting Senior Vice President, Operations Management, ANRC, will co-sign a letter to be published in the *NASW News*, the monthly newspaper of NASW and *Red Cross News*. This letter will announce the signing of this agreement and will encourage social workers to contact their local Red Cross for information on volunteering to lead support groups for military families in their areas.
2. Newsletters of both organizations will provide highlights of current activities to increase awareness and opportunities for continued partnerships at both the national and local levels.
3. Both organizations understand that each organization is an independent entity and is not related to or considered the agent for the other organization. In the spirit of cooperation, each organization agrees to obtain the approval of the other for any and all written material developed for marketing, educational, or other purposes which includes the name, emblem, or logo of the other organization.

V. Recommended Opportunities for Involvement

American Red Cross chapters and NASW chapters are encouraged to work collaboratively at national and local levels and to share their expertise, especially in the areas of service to military families and veterans, disaster preparedness, education, response, international social work, and other community and social services. Specifically:

1. Establish procedures for encouraging NASW members to volunteer to lead support groups for military families.
2. Make available to each social worker volunteering with Red Cross, the book entitled *Guide to Developing and Conducting Reunion Programs*, developed by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.
3. Assist in international social work services, acculturation and resettlement for newly arrived immigrants and refugees.
4. Encourage increased involvement in American Red Cross disaster relief especially in the area of mental health preparedness.
5. Arrange for periodic meetings for the purpose of considering other ways of working together, such as sharing information to enhance problem solving, coping, and developmental capacities of people.

Not exclusive to the above, the American National Red Cross and the National Association of Social Workers will continue to pursue ways in which we can advance our common interests in addressing local community needs.



Mark Battle, ACSW
Executive Director
National Association of Social
Workers

Date:



James J. Hladecek
Acting Senior Vice President
Operations Management
American Red Cross

Date:

Kansas AFL-CIO

110 W. 6th St.

Topeka, KS 66603

(913)357-0396



President
Dale Moore

Executive Secretary
Treasurer
Jim DeHoff

Executive Vice
President
Wayne Maichel

Executive Board
Walt Bernhardt
Mike Bellinger
Eugene Burrell
Ken Doud, Jr.
Garold Good
David Han
Jim Hastings
Cliff Henderson
John Hoover
Adrain Loomis
Duane Nordick
Dwayne Peaslee
John Rider
Wallace Scott
Allen Smith
Debbie Snow
Art Veach
John Weber

Senate Governmental Organization Committee
Chairman, Senator Al Ramirez
Senate Bill 96

Chairman Ramirez and Committee Members:

I am Jim DeHoff, Executive Secretary of the Kansas AFL CIO. I appear before you today to ask that you give strong consideration for the passage of SB 96.

Several disasters have struck in the State of Kansas, most recent perhaps was the tornadoes which hit the Andover, Wichita area. The Red Cross, along with the help of their volunteers, staff, government, business, labor and the community were very successful in assisting the people of that area to survive that tragedy and rebuild their homes and their community. This took months of activity and thousands of volunteer hours. Many of the volunteers were paid for this time by their employers including the State AFL CIO and the AFL CIO Community Services. Both have policies governing the payment of wages and benefits for the employees who volunteer their services during disasters. There were many State of Kansas employees who also volunteered their time and services but unfortunately, did not receive any pay or benefits.

Senate Bill 96 is critically important for the Red Cross to continue to provide disaster relief. It is very important to the volunteers, particularly when you consider they are asked to volunteer their time for a minimum of three weeks. While the volunteers really are not seeking pay for what they do, most of them cannot afford to go three weeks without a paycheck.

SB 96 would grant 20 working days in any twelve month period without loss of pay and benefits subject to the approval of the employees State Agency - only if the employee is a certified disaster service volunteer of the American Red Cross and if the disaster is designated at Level II and above by the Red Cross. We urge your support of SB 96.

Thank you.

Jim DeHoff
Kansas AFL CIO



G.O. Comm.
Attachment 4
2/4/93

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Division of Personnel Services

JOAN FINNEY,
Governor

NANCY M. ECHOLS,
Director of Personnel Services

February 2, 1993

Room 951-South
Landon State Office Building
900 S.W. Jackson Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1251
913-296-4278
FAX 913-296-6793

The Honorable Alfred Ramirez
Chairperson, Governmental Organization
Kansas Senate
Room 128-S, Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Ramirez:

Senate Bill 96 is before the Senate Governmental Organization Committee for review. I am writing to express my support of the bill as proposed.

Senate Bill 96 would authorize paid leave for any state employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer of the American Red Cross to participate in disaster relief services designated at level II and above in Kansas and bordering states. This leave, like any other paid leave, would be subject to the approval of the employee's appointing authority and would be limited to 20 working days in each twelve month period.

Other states were contacted to see if they have or are considering authorizing paid leave of absences for employees to perform disaster relief services. Six states, (Connecticut, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia), have enacted similar laws for disaster service volunteer leave. Twelve other states have pending legislation related to disaster service volunteer leave. With the passage of this bill, the State of Kansas would be in the forefront of public employers authorizing disaster service volunteer paid leave to employees.

According to the American Red Cross, over a twelve year span beginning from 1980 to 1992, they have conducted an average of two Level II or above disaster service operations in Kansas each year. However, employees who are American Red Cross certified volunteers would also be expected to assist in any of the states bordering Kansas if needed.

In the event that an employee should become injured while performing disaster services for the American Red Cross, the American Red Cross provides insurance coverage for any damages or injuries suffered while volunteering in a disaster service operation that the employee's individual insurance would not cover.

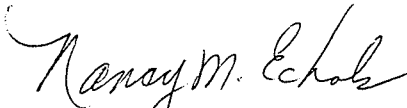
*G.O. Comm.
Attachment 5
2/4/93*

Senator Alfred Ramirez
February 2, 1993
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The implementation of Senate Bill 96 and associated personnel regulations would facilitate the state's active involvement in responding to disaster emergencies and encourage state employees to voluntarily participate in American Red Cross disaster services.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 96. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Nancy M. Echols

NME:kad

cc: Secretary Seltsam