

# Chris Dodd

U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT



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**CONTACT: Bryan DeAngelis**  
**202-224-5372**

## **DODD STATEMENT ON INTERIM REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), a senior member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Chairman of its Subcommittee on Children and Families, issued the following statement today following the release of an interim report from the National Commission on Children and Disasters.

“In times of crisis, our nation often falls short of protecting the health and lives of our most vulnerable citizens—our children,” said Senator Dodd. “I commend the Commission for their hard work and dedication to this important issue, and I will be studying the members’ proposals to see where they can be addressed in federal law. I look forward to receiving the Commission’s full and final report when it is released next year.”

The interim report, which was approved by the full Commission yesterday, identifies several shortcomings in disaster preparedness, response and recovery and provides recommendations designed to make children an immediate priority in disaster planning. These recommendations, among others, include: incorporating children as an immediate priority within the White House and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; adopting national disaster planning standards for facilities that serve or house children, such as schools, group homes and juvenile justice centers; and adopting national standards to provide a safe and secure emergency shelter environment for children, including access to age-appropriate services and supplies.

Dodd was the Senate sponsor of the legislation approved by Congress in 2007 that created the Commission, which is charged with analyzing how the federal government can better meet the specific needs of children before, during and after disasters.

A draft copy of the Commission’s Interim Report can be found [here](#).