initial responses to the Section 318 requirements. About this time, we received an unsolicited offer from a local developer to purchase the entire campus. We accepted, contingent upon our being able to obtain a relocation or release for the property from HUD. We believed it was in the best interest of our residents to build a new campus further inland that would not be affected by future hurricanes. This offer would also give us the opportunity to rebuild the HUD building in a safer location at no additional cost to HUD. We planned to have a new campus with a new HUD building and we could restore 65 subsidized apartments for seniors on the Gulf Coast which had been in existence since 1984.

On July 5, 2006, we submitted our formal Section 318 request to HUD headquarters, outlining our plan and asked HUD for dialogue on how we could make this happen. Weeks passed and we heard nothing from HUD. On August 8, 2006, we once again contacted AAHSA staff and asked for their help. On August 17, 2006 AAHSA had a series of conversations with a senior HUD staff member who assured them they were going to make this happen. On August 29, 2006, after no contact from HUD, we contacted Senator Thad Cochran's office and asked for help. Our business interruption insurance coverage was ending and financially we were fading fast. We needed to complete this process to save the HUD project as well as the entire campus. Senator Cochran's staff responded immediately and HUD assured them that we were a priority. Weeks passed with no response from HUD. At times when MMSS would request an update from HUD, we were told that they were not sure what desk it was on. On one occasion we were told they were waiting because we did not send a hard copy of our paperwork and they only had an electronic copy. We had submitted a hard copy and it was electronically elevated by HUD staff according to their own protocol. Senator Cochran's staff intervened again in mid-September. They were assured our application was in process.

On October 2, 2007, more than six months after our notification of intent to pursue a Section 318 project based Section 8 transfer and almost three months after our formal request was submitted to HUD headquarters, we received a letter form HUD notifying us that our Section 318 request had been denied. I have attached correspondence outlining things that would have to be done for the request to be reconsidered. The items had not been communicated to us previously and were either economically infeasible or incapable of being completed for many months. At this point our request had been denied, our insurance coverage was exhausted and we were in jeopardy of losing the sale of the entire property.

Throughout this process the Jackson, Mississippi HUD office was very helpful. Thanks to that office we learned that our contract, a pre–1984 HUD 202 contract, could actually be pre-paid with 30 days notice and without HUD approval. After much consideration, we felt this was our only option to continue providing senior housing on the Gulf Coast. However, we wanted to make one last effort to save the 65 Section 8 rent subsidies and transfer them to a new building. We notified HUD of our intent to pay-off the 202 mortgage and they gave us the process to follow, including the notification letter that we needed to send former residents to notify them of the sale. In numerous phone conversations with HUD officials in Washington, D.C., we repeatedly asked for permission to transfer the Section 8 rental subsidies to a new building so we could preserve those subsidies and continue serving low-income residents at the new property. HUD informed us that it had never been done before and despite having the legal authority, they would have to get a legal opinion and call us back. The next day they called back and told us the Section 8 subsidies could be moved and they would let us know the process. We were ecstatic that this would allow us to restore the low income units on the Gulf Coast and most importantly, offer our previous residents a chance to return to MMSS on the new campus.

As we got closer to closing on the sale, HUD notified us that the letter used to notify residents of the property sale did not use the correct language. We reminded HUD that we had used the exact letter that they had provided. Just before closing, we inquired again about the process for moving the Section 8 subsidies to a new building as HUD had said we could do. We were told that HUD never agreed to that and that the subsidies had to stay with the damaged building. In the end, despite their insistence that HUD was committed to preserving units and having the authority to transfer the contract to a new, safer building, HUD essentially forced USSM to give up project based Section 8 contract to complete the sale of the campus. More disturbing, HUD had done what the hurricane had not even been able to do, permanently displace those residents that rode out the storm in their homes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO CHILDHOOD STROKE AND DESIGNATING MAY 3, 2008, AS ''NATIONAL CHILDHOOD STROKE AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 549

Whereas a stroke, also known as a ''cerebrovascular accident'', is an acute neurologic injury that occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted by a clot in the artery or a burst of the artery;

Whereas a stroke is a medical emergency that can cause permanent neurologic damage or even death if not promptly diagnosed and treated;

Whereas 26 out of every 100,000 newborns and almost 3 out of every 100,000 children have a stroke each year;

Whereas an individual can have a stroke before birth;

Whereas stroke is among the top 10 causes of death for children in the United States;

Whereas 12 percent of all children who experience a stroke die as a result;

Whereas stroke recurs in 20 percent of children who have experienced a prior stroke;

Whereas the death rate for children who experience a stroke before the age of 1 year is the highest out of all age groups;

Whereas the average time from onset of symptoms to diagnosis of stroke is 24 hours, putting many affected children outside the window of 3 hours for the most successful treatment;

Whereas many children who experience a stroke will suffer serious, long-term neurological disabilities, including—

(1) hemiplegia, which is paralysis of 1 side of the body;

(2) seizures;

(3) speech and vision problems; and

(4) learning difficulties;

Whereas those disabilities may require ongoing physical therapy and surgeries;

Whereas the permanent health concerns and treatments resulting from strokes that occur during childhood and young adulthood have a considerable impact on children, families, and society;

Whereas very little is known about the cause, treatment, and prevention of childhood stroke;

Whereas medical research is the only means by which the citizens of the United States can identify and develop effective treatment and prevention strategies for childhood stroke;

Whereas early diagnosis and treatment of childhood stroke greatly improves the chances that the affected child will recover and not experience a recurrence; and

Whereas The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia should be commended for its initiative in creating the Nation's first program dedicated to pediatric stroke patients: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 3, 2008 as ''National Childhood Stroke Awareness Day''; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to support the efforts, programs, services, and advocacy of organizations that work to enhance public awareness of childhood stroke.

SENATE RESOLUTION 550—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING PROVOCATIVE AND DANGEROUS STATEMENTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION THAT UNDERMINE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 550

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and 32 United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Georgia has pursued with good faith the peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since the end of hostilities in 1993;

Whereas President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili has offered a clear plan for resolving the conflict in Abkhazia and securing legitimate interests of the Abkhaz and South Ossetian people within a unified Georgia;

Whereas, for several years, the Government of Russia has engaged in an ongoing process of usurping the sovereignty of Georgia in Abkhazia and South Ossetia by awarding subsidies, the right to vote in elections in Russia, and Russian passports to people living in those regions;

Whereas the announcement of the Government of the Russian Federation that it will establish ''official ties'' with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and further involve itself in aspects of their government appears to be a thinly veiled attempt at annexation;

Whereas the statements and counter-productive behavior of the Government of the Russian Federation in these regions has undermined the peace and security of those regions, the Republic of Georgia, and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the consistent effort to undermine the sovereignty of a neighbor is incompatible with the role of the Russian Federation