I voted Yes on H.R. 592, which clarifies that houses of worship are eligible for certain disaster relief and emergency assistance on terms equal to other eligible private nonprofit facilities.

Non-profit organizations typically qualify for benefits available to those in need after a natural disaster, but there remains some ambiguity in current law as to whether or not that includes religious institutions. This legislation would simply clarify to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that any non-profit owned by a religious institution may be eligible for direct assistance.

Non-profits in our local communities provide great service and assistance to our most vulnerable populations after devastating events, and this legislation confirms any such organization that meets proper qualifications should be allowed to apply for and receive assistance if found eligible, regardless of religious affiliation of its ownership.

H.R. 592 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 354 – 72.