



Sister Dina <sisterdina.3@gmail.com>

Responding to your message

Office of U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock <do_not_reply@warnock.senate.gov>
To: sisterdina.3@gmail.com

Fri, Nov 15, 2024 at 7:06 PM

RAPHAEL WARNOCK
GEORGIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1012

Dear Sister Michel-Wiggins,

Thank you for contacting me about Hurricane Helene. I pray that you and your loved ones are all safe in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene's devastating landfall in our state. I join Georgians all over in mourning those we have lost during this awful storm, and I am immensely grateful for the first responders who have risked their lives to keep our communities safe.

As your Senator, my first priority is the safety of all Georgians, and I believe that the federal government has a responsibility to support communities in distress with robust resources to save lives, assist relocation efforts, and support reconstruction. That is why on October 1, 2024, I, along with my Senate colleagues from Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, sent a letter urging Senate leaders to take all necessary actions to support recovery efforts in the affected states, even if that requires Congress to return to Washington, D.C. in October to enact disaster funding legislation. On October 16, 2024, I continued this advocacy by leading my Senate colleagues from North Carolina and Virginia in a letter to President Biden requesting that the Office of Management and Budget work quickly to determine the costs of recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton so that Congress may expeditiously pass additional disaster relief funding. If you are interested, you can read these letters on my website here: <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-warnock-champions-bipartisan-push-for-quick-passage-of-disaster-relief-legislation/> and here: <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/leading-federal-response-to-hurricane-helene-in-georgia-senator-reverend-warnock-pushes-president-biden-to-kickstart-bipartisan-disaster-funding-effort/>.

In the meantime, I have traveled to Augusta and Ray City, Georgia in the wake of Hurricane Helene. On September 30, 2024, I visited Augusta, Georgia to survey the damage and meet with local elected officials and community leaders about their needs in the aftermath of the storm. During this visit, I participated in a roundtable with community leaders and members at Golden Harvest Food Bank and delivered cases of bottled water to local volunteers and residents at Tabernacle Baptist Church. A few days later, on October 3, 2024, I joined President Joe Biden to visit Shiloh Pecan Farm in Ray City, Georgia to assess agricultural damages from Hurricane Helene. While there, I pressed the President directly to approve Georgia's remaining counties under the federal major disaster declaration without additional delay.

As recovery efforts continue, I am committed to working across government to ensure that Georgians are not taken advantage of during this time. That is why I sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice urging the Strike Force on Unfair and Illegal Pricing to monitor incidents of price gouging following Hurricane Helene and coordinate these efforts with state Attorneys General offices. I also sent a letter to several federal consumer protection agencies, including the FTC and the

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, urging them to prioritize the investigation of disaster-related frauds and scams, share information across law enforcement agencies to stop bad actors, and disseminate information to consumers on how to avoid and report frauds and scams.

I have also worked with federal agencies to ensure that resources in high demand are available to Georgians who need them. For example, I sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration requesting immediate action to address supply chain challenges affecting IV fluids and to ensure that measures are put in place to prevent future shortages.

My office continues to monitor on-going recovery efforts and has been in frequent contact with Federal, state, and local officials to ensure our communities get the help they need. Along with my colleagues in the Georgia delegation, I successfully urged President Biden to approve a federal Emergency Declaration for Georgia, giving our state access to much needed federal emergency resources and assistance to supplement state and local preparation and response efforts. I am also pushing to deliver additional aid and relief to Georgians in need through a federal Major Disaster declaration. At my request, the President has declared a number of counties eligible for individual and public assistance. You can view the current list of counties here: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4830/designated-areas>.

If you are experiencing issues related to Hurricane Helene, please feel free to reach out to my casework team at (770) 694-7828. My office has also compiled a list of resources to help your communities stay safe and begin to recover during this difficult time: <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/federal-disaster-recovery-assistance-for-georgians-impacted-by-hurricane-helene>.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to do so again in the future if I may be of assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Warnock", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator