

Last Friday, June 10, Gus held a Congressional hearing in Clearwater, FL, to discuss emergency preparedness issues. As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, Bilirakis is responsible for ensuring that federal, state and local agencies are prepared for potential disasters. And with hurricane season under way, Bilirakis wanted to meet with officials about successes and challenges they face as they work to address emergencies.

Read more about Bilirakis' hearing in an *Associated Press* article below or [by clicking here](#) .

Congressional Hearing Focuses on Disasters
Associated Press
June 10, 2011

Unclear federal standards for emergency shelters and the prospect of losing grant money critical to helping local governments prepare for disasters were among the major concerns expressed by emergency managers at a congressional hearing Friday in Florida. The emergency officials, from Florida, Alabama and Ohio, stressed the need for public-private partnerships in disaster preparation and the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter to communicate quickly with the public. They also lauded the strides made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, a Republican whose district includes parts of the Tampa Bay area, is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communication. He conducted the field hearing in the coastal community of Clearwater with U.S. Rep. Hansen Clarke, D-Mich. ([Click here to read more](#))

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[970 WFLA: AM Tampa Bay: Congressman Bilirakis is holding a hearing about emergency](#)

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