

WASHINGTON- The House of Representatives voted unanimously today in favor of H.R. 23, The Tornado Shelters Act, offered by Congressman Spencer Bachus. This legislation allows local governments to use Community Development Block Grant funds to construct storm shelters in manufactured home communities.

"Today, the technology is there to give early and normally ample warning to our citizens when a powerful tornado approaches. What is missing for many of our citizens is a safe shelter from that storm", said Bachus. "When a tornado strikes, all of us are at risk. Unless you have a basement or an interior safe room in your home, you need a storm shelter. This legislation will allow cities and counties to use the Community Development Block Grant funds they receive to build storm shelters to protect their citizens."

Federal programs exist that help communities and individuals build storm shelters or safe rooms for site-built homes, apartment buildings and schools. However, the programs do not include manufactured home communities.

"As we have sadly seen, tornadoes do not make such distinctions. I want all our citizens to be able to benefit from this program. We need to level the playing field so mobile home communities qualify, just as others do. Manufactured home communities and residents should not be excluded", Bachus said.