



Partners in Prevention

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BuildStrong Strives to *Make America Resilient Again*

FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson was among the policymakers, industry representatives, and experts participating in the 2017 [BuildStrong Coalition](#) National Thought Leaders Forum in Washington, DC on June 7. The Forum examined the power of disaster resiliency in construction to save lives and taxpayer dollars with a focus on solutions and incentives for strengthening buildings and mitigating damage from natural disasters.

FLASH Director and USAA AVP Tom Woods introduced the featured keynote speakers at the forum that included U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, Congressman Lou Barletta, and Congressman Lloyd Smucker.

Congressman Smucker, a builder by trade, discussed the expected new version of the National Mitigation Investment Act and said, "The new legislation will be focused on resiliency of homes and businesses while addressing the increasing federal share paid, e.g. Hurricane Diane in 1955 taxpayers paid 6%; in Katrina, 2005, taxpayers paid 50%; and in Sandy, taxpayers paid 80%. We can address this, but it should be done through incentives, not mandates."

FEMA representatives attended the forum and provided additional insights into how model building codes are faring at the state and local level.

Chapman-Henderson served on the Stakeholder Roundtable Panel along with Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety President and CEO Julie Rochman who was the panel's moderator. Insurance Information Institute CEO Sean Kevelighan; Director of Built Environment Policy at the American Institute of Architects Rachel Minnery; Congressional Fire Services Institute Executive Director Bill Webb; American Society of Civil Engineers Manager of Government Relations Martin Hight; International Fire Chiefs Association CFO Michael O'Brien; Frank Nutter, President of the Reinsurance Association of America; and General Warren Edwards representing ICC rounded out the group.

"We are proud to be a part of the BuildStrong Coalition under the leadership of Jimi Grande and his talented team," Chapman-Henderson said. "Our special thanks go out to our Legacy Partners from State Farm Insurance Companies and USAA for their role in making our participation possible."