

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing more than 400,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and executives, we are writing to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 1327, the "Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act." We are grateful that the House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 1327 tomorrow and for the more than 330 Members that have cosponsored it, and urge every Representative to support its passage.

Over the past eight years, the VCF has aided 9/11 responders and their families, operating as Congress intended and as these heroes deserve. Despite that, however, the VCF is now running dangerously low on funds and since the beginning of the year has had to impose severe cuts to award amounts as a result of that shortage. This is a direct result of the growing national health crisis among 9/11 responders suffering from cancers and other serious health conditions. To date, the VCF has received claims from all 50 States, and has made more than 28,000 determinations.

Many of these claims are from law enforcement officers from every corner of America who descended on New York, Shanksville, and the Pentagon to assist in the aftermath of the worst terrorist attack in our nation's history. At the World Trade Center site, they labored countless hours searching for friends, colleagues, and fellow citizens who were trapped in the wreckage. They did so in an environment more toxic than any we have seen before or since. Eighteen years later we see the price of that service in the more than 75,000 responders who are receiving medical monitoring or treatment for a 9/11-related health condition through the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP). Nearly 8,500 of these responders have been diagnosed with one or more 9/11-related cancers, of which 560 have died of their conditions. In fact, within law enforcement alone, the number of officers who have died of a 9/11-related health condition is now *triple* the 71 that fell on September 11th, 2001. Month after month, the numbers keep going up; and not just from the NYPD's ranks, but from federal, state, and local agencies across the country. The ranks of the sick and the fallen now come from 434 of 435 Congressional Districts.

Nearly four years ago Congress recognized the urgent and ongoing needs of 9/11 responders by permanently reauthorizing the WTCHP. Now it must do the same for the VCF, and do so quickly. That is why we are grateful that the House will vote on this important legislation this week, and why we urge each Member of the House to support H.R. 1327.

Sincerely,

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
Major County Sheriffs of America
National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement
Executives
United Coalition of Public Safety
Detectives Endowment Association NYPD

FBI Agents Association
National Association of Police Organizations
National Sheriffs' Association
National Treasury Employees Union
Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD
Lieutenants Benevolent Association NYPD

Captains Endowment Association NYPD
State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers
Ft. Worth Police Officers Association
San Diego Police Officers Association

Florida Police Benevolent Association
San Jose Peace Officers Association
San Francisco Police Officers Association
Seattle Police Officers Guild

CC: Members, United States House of Representatives