February 23, 2015

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader  Minority Leader
United States Senate  United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510  Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our full support for legislation to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Passing a bill to reauthorize the Act before its expiration next year is critically important to tens of thousands of first responders whose health continues to be impacted by the attacks of September 11, 2001.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America’s law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

NAPO stands ready to support any efforts necessary to pass legislation to ensure the continuation of the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. 9/11 first responders and survivors continue to suffer from serious health conditions from their contact with toxic substances at Ground Zero. These heroes put their lives on the line to serve us, and must be afforded every resource available as they cope with chronic health conditions caused by exposure to toxic chemicals at the World Trade Center.

This legislation will not only reauthorize programs to provide critical medical treatment and compensation for 9/11 heroes, but it will also honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation. James Zadroga, a New York City Police Department Detective and member of NAPO, died of respiratory disease caused by his exposure to toxic chemicals at Ground Zero. It is our obligation and
duty to remember these heroes and ensure that survivors who risked their lives to protect us continue to receive the treatment and compensation that they deserve.

Congress must pass legislation to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act this year to ensure our heroes continue to receive every resource available. We urge you to work with us to pass this important legislation.

If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director