

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association • National Association of Police Organizations •
National Troopers Coalition • Detectives' Endowment Association (NYPD) •
Sergeants Benevolent Association (NYPD) • Lieutenants Benevolent Association (NYPD) •
Captains Endowment Association (NYPD) • Port Authority Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

November 12, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing more than 300,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, we are writing to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 5503 and S. 2844, the "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act." We urge your support and request your assistance in moving this legislation through the Congress as expeditiously as possible.

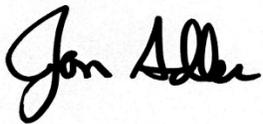
Thirteen years ago the heinous and premeditated terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, claimed nearly 3,000 lives—including 72 of our fellow law enforcement officers. In the following weeks and months, first responders like us from every corner of America descended on New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, PA to assist in rescue and recovery efforts. At the World Trade Center (WTC) site we willingly labored countless hours searching for our friends, colleagues, and fellow citizens who were trapped in the wreckage. We did so in an environment more toxic than any we have seen before or since. Although each first responder who was there would willingly volunteer again, we now see the price of that service in the 30,000 responders and survivors who are struggling with a WTC-related illness.

To address the health crisis that emerged among 9/11 responders, you and your colleagues came together in 2010 to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. The World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) established by the Act now serves participants in all 50 U.S. states, including more than 2,900 individuals who have been diagnosed with a WTC-related cancer. Similarly, the Act's provisions to reopen the original 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund (VCF) have provided needed financial assistance to those who are sick and the families of the fallen. In so doing both the VCF and WTCHP exemplify our nation's commitment to ensuring that those who risk their lives carrying out their sworn duty to protect and serve receive the treatment and compensation that they deserve.

Despite the strides that have been made to care for those who are ill and the families of the fallen, there is still more to be done. The WTCHP continues to identify illnesses caused by exposure to the toxins at Ground Zero, which now include more than 60 types of cancer. Ground Zero first responders continue to be diagnosed with WTC-related illnesses. Many of them suffer from multiple conditions. And law enforcement officers continue to die from 9/11. Tragically more officers have now succumbed to a WTC-related illness than perished in the collapse of the WTC towers on 9/11.

America cannot now abandon those who bore the battle brought to our shores on 9/11. We must also care for the widows and orphans they leave behind as they pass before their time from illnesses incurred from their selfless service. The four of you recently came together at the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medals to the nation's three 9/11 memorials. Each of you spoke with reverence about the responders, survivors, and victims of the 9/11 attacks and the obligation America has to never forget them. We ask that you come together again in this same spirit to honor and care for these men and women and their loved ones by passing the "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act."

Sincerely,



Jon Adler, President
Federal Law Enforcement
Officers Association



William Johnson, Executive Director
National Association of Police
Organizations



Mathew Hodapp, Chairman
National Troopers Coalition



Michael Palladino, President
Detectives' Endowment Association, NYPD



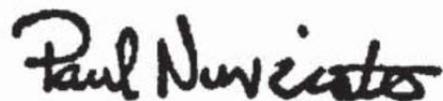
Ed Mullins, President
Sergeants Benevolent Association, NYPD



Louis Turco, President
Lieutenants Benevolent Association, NYPD



Roy Richter, President
Captains Endowment Association, NYPD



Paul Nunziato, President
Port Authority Police Benevolent
Association, Inc.

CC: Members, United States House of Representatives and United States Senate