

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Join in cosponsoring the Gillibrand-Gardner “Never Forget the Heroes; Permanent Authorization of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund”

Dear Colleagues,

The terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 killed 2,997. First responders from every state in the nation came to New York, Pennsylvania and Washington DC, to aid in the rescue and recovery missions. In the years since, tens of thousands of first responders, relief workers, and local residents, have gotten sick or lost their lives from illnesses caused by the toxic cocktail of burning chemicals, pulverized drywall and powdered cement that they were exposed to at Ground Zero, Shanksville and the Pentagon.

Congress has already provided a permanent healthcare program for these responders and survivors, but the program to provide compensation for their families and suffering will expire in 2020. Therefore, we are asking you to consider joining us in introducing legislation to permanently fund the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF).

In every state, our brave 9/11 first responders and their families are all facing the worsening health impacts of that day and its aftermath.

The death toll from 9/11 continues to grow as responders and survivors die in increasing numbers from 9/11-related conditions. Soon the deaths of responders and survivors caused by the toxins at Ground Zero will exceed those killed on that day.

The Special Master of the VCF, Rupa Bhattacharyya, a career Justice Department Attorney with over 20 years of service, has just announced that because of increases in claims, including many cancer cases, the VCF will not have enough funds to cover claims during the current authorization and she will have to consider reducing awards. We cannot allow this to happen.

Brave men and women from our states answered the call to assist our country in a time of vulnerability, and we need to ensure that they receive not only the medical care that they desperately need and deserve, but also critical financial help for them and their families. They came from all corners of the country bearing various racial, religious, and political stripes; united for a common cause to serve their country. These men and women deserve the support of every one of us honored to represent them.

If you would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact Brooke Jamison at brooke_jamison@gillibrand.senate.gov or Megan Axelrod at megan_axelrod@gardner.senate.gov

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator