



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

THOMAS H. MILLER
General Secretary-Treasurer

April 27, 2015

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

On behalf of the nation's 300,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, I am pleased to offer our support for S. 928, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

Responders to and survivors of the 9/11 attacks were exposed to a toxic mix of dust and chemicals, as well as extreme psychological trauma. The resulting injuries and illnesses have plagued tens of thousands of individuals. Fire fighters and other first responders have been particularly affected. Nearly 900 members of the New York City Fire Department are currently struggling with severe 9/11-related illnesses, not including the more than 100 fire fighters who have died from such illnesses.

Without Congressional action, the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11 Victim Compensation fund will expire, leaving those afflicted by 9/11 illnesses without needed medical monitoring, healthcare, and compensation. Your bill ensures that the heroes of 9/11 continue to receive monitoring, treatment, and compensation without interruption.

Those who responded on 9/11 and in the following months selflessly put their lives and health on the line to help America recover from a national disaster. We have a moral obligation to provide them the care they need and deserve.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue, and for your continued support of America's professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Harold A. Schaitberger'.

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President