



FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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June 9, 2015

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Gillibrand and Representative Maloney:

We are writing in strong support for S. 928 and H.R. 1786, the "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act." On September 11th, 2001, the United States suffered its most devastating attack on U.S. soil by a group of thugs and murderers. That attack, which by any standard was an act of war, was responded to by thousands of men and women in uniform ó both law enforcement and firefighter uniforms ó who had one other distinguishing characteristic, they all wore a badge.

Seventy-two law enforcement officers died during this attack, including three federal agents - FBI Special Agent Leonard Hatton, USSS Master Special Officer Craig Miller and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge Manager Richard Guardano.

During that battle, those first responder warriors held the line - even when the Towers fell, the Pentagon Collapsed and United 93 was sacrificed into the ground. Afterwards, they maintained a vigil for months in the search for survivors and recovery of those lost, without thought or regard for the dangerous conditions they were working in.

Today, over 2,500 have developed cancer and over 60 law enforcement officers have died, all tied to their 9/11 exposure. Statistics have shown that this problem will only get worse and the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act was the only hope many had.

We applaud your leadership on this issue of national importance and want to assure you that the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) strongly supports the reauthorization of this act via H.R. 1786 in the House of Representatives and S. 928 in the Senate.

Those first responders that answered the call didn't flinch or falter. After 9/11, the nation vowed to Never Forget. We expect that Congress will not allow the plight of first responders' health care to be forgotten and will pass the re-authorization of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act without delay.

Respectfully,

Steve Lenkart

Steve Lenkart
Executive Director