



September 17, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The Partnership for New York City represents the city's largest private sector employers, investors and leading entrepreneurs. We work with government, labor and the non-profit sector to promote, invest in and build the economy of New York, which is a major economic driver for the entire nation.

We are writing to urge your support of S. 928, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act. This legislation would reauthorize the two critical programs that provide medical treatment and compensation for 9/11 victims: the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). Without action these programs will expire.

This month marks fourteen years since the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history. The attacks of 9/11 were an unprecedented act of war against this country, targeting both our economic and political capitals. The impact on those who were directly exposed to the attacks or participated in emergency response and recovery is still reverberating, with tens of thousands of Americans still suffering physical and mental consequences. More than thirty thousand responders and survivors suffer from 9/11 related illnesses and over two thirds have more than one illness. The WTCHP has identified over sixty types of cancer caused by exposure to toxins at Ground Zero.

These responders and survivors came from every state in the U.S. in response to a national crisis. They voluntarily participated in rescue, recovery and early rebuilding efforts and, as a result, were exposed to contaminants that have caused or will ultimately result in serious consequences for their health and longevity. In New York City alone, over 2,000 active duty Fire Department

personnel and over 550 NYC Police Department personnel have been forced to retire due to 9/11 illnesses.

We urge you to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/ 11 Health and Compensation Act without delay to provide for compensation, monitoring and health care for those who have suffered permanent damages in service to our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Wylde". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Kathryn Wylde  
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand