

RENEW 9/11 HEALTH



Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act, Inc.
15 Cheviot Court, Clifton Park, New York 12065
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October 6, 2015

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Dear Governor Kasich,

On August 19th, 2015, with the 14th anniversary of 9/11 approaching, I wrote to you and all of the candidates for President, certified return receipt, on behalf of more than 70,000 9/11 first responders and survivors of the attacks, who come from every state and almost all 429 of 435 Congressional districts nationwide. These heroes are currently receiving medical treatment and monitoring from the World Trade Center Health Program and many of them have applied for compensation for their injuries from the reopened September 11th Victim Compensation Fund.

These programs will expire soon, unless Congress reauthorizes them. Accordingly, we had three simple questions for you:

1. As a Candidate for President, will you join us in urging Congress to pass HR. 1786/ S928?
2. If you were elected President, would you sign HR 1786/ S 928 should Congress pass it?
3. If you answered “No” to urging Congress to pass the bill or to signing the bill into law, please explain why.

We have not gotten a response from you and neither have members of the media who called your campaign to ask about this issue. However, we saw your recent statements about the 14th anniversary of 9/11 via your official Twitter account, which assures us of your commitment to 9/11 victims and first responders:

“Today we remember all of those lost & recommit ourselves to freedom & to one another. -John #NeverForget911” 9/11/2015

<https://twitter.com/JohnKasich/status/642327641656291328>



Should be more than a bumper sticker.

With all due respect, if you will truly “never forget” the heroes of 9/11, why are you ignoring their pleas for help? Today, we’re calling upon you to back up your words with an actual commitment to help those who are suffering because of their service to the nation.

There is growing support in Congress for reauthorizing 9/11 aid programs, and **several of your fellow candidates for President, including Senator Lindsey Graham and former Governor George Pataki, support the legislation, as well.**

Congress has had 14 years to come up with a permanent solution to the health care crisis of 9/11 survivors and first responders. Existing 9/11 health and compensation programs have been working for five years, helping tens of thousands of Americas – all in an efficient, fiscally-responsible way.

On 9/11, first responders didn’t ignore calls for help or demand further study of the issue. No responder said they support helping people trapped in the towers or the rubble, and they’d get to it soon. We did our duty.

Unless Congress acts, some 33,000 injured and ill 9/11 responders and survivors - including over 4,100 who have 9/11 caused cancers, and thousands more expected to be diagnosed in years to come - will lose their medical treatment. Unless Congress acts, the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund will shut down just days after the 15th anniversary of the attacks, meaning that 9/11 responders and survivors seeking compensation could end up receiving 50% less help than they are expecting. Those who develop cancer in the coming years as a result of their exposure to the toxins at Ground Zero will have nowhere to turn, facing massive medical bills and massive worries for their family’s future.

As a candidate for President of the United States of America, and a potential Commander-in-Chief, we expect that you will at least be able to respond to questions about helping those who served the nation in a time of war.

Injured and ill 9/11 responders and survivors deserve a response from you. Please return your answers by emailing Ben.Chevat@renew911health.org or by sending them via U.S. Mail to Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act, 15 Cheviot CT., Clifton Park, N.Y., 12065.

Sincerely,



Richard Alles
Deputy Fire Chief
Uniformed Fire Officers Association
Board Member, Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act, Inc.



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