

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2019

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to become a cosponsor of H.R. 1327, the "Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund." The 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund is running out of money and is now making severe cuts to payouts to sick and injured 9/11 responders and survivors. It is also set to expire next year. Our bill will fully fund the VCF and reverse these cuts, while also extending the fund's life.

The terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 killed 2,997 and injured thousands in New York City, Shanksville, PA and the Pentagon. In the years since, tens of thousands more men and women, including first responders, relief workers, and local residents, have lost their lives or gotten sick after they were exposed to a toxic cocktail of burning chemicals, pulverized drywall and powdered cement.

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

Congress has already provided a permanent healthcare program for these responders and survivors, but the program to provide compensation for their families and their suffering will expire in 2020. Making matters worse, on February 15th, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Special Master announced that due to increases in claims, including many cancer cases, the VCF will not have enough funds to cover claims during the current authorization and has cut awards for pending cases by 50 to 70%. This devastating for first responders, survivors, and their families.

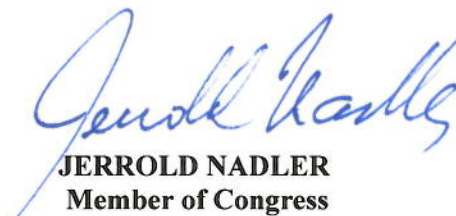
Please join us in honoring our commitment to 9/11 first responders, survivors, and their families by cosponsoring H.R. 1327 to reverse these cuts and keep the fund from closing next year.

After 9/11, we vowed to never forget. With that promise, we committed to making sure these heroes never have to go without the support they need. That is why we must work together to restore any cuts to awards, ensure that future eligible recipients are fully compensated, and make the VCF program permanent.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor H.R. 1327, the Never Forget the Heroes; Permanent Authorization of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Act, please have your staff contact Kelly Hennessy with Rep. Maloney at kelly.hennessy@mail.house.gov or Deena Tauster with Rep. King at deena.tauster@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress