



LIUNA!

March 22, 2019

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United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 500,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I am writing to urge you to support S. 546, a bill which would permanently authorize the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). If Congress does not act soon, the VCF will close at the end of 2020 and leave thousands of 9/11 first responders and survivors without compensation they deserve.

More than 4,000 LIUNA members put their lives in danger to help with the emergency response and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center (WTC) in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001. In all, tens of thousands of emergency workers, construction workers, and others responded to the WTC site, Pentagon, and the Shanksville, Pennsylvania crash site to assist in rescue and recovery operations. These workers were exposed to a toxic mix of dust and fumes from the collapsed buildings and fires. Many of these workers now suffer from serious respiratory disease and other health problems.

LIUNA has always been a strong proponent of the James Zadroga Act, and its programs, since the first introduction of the bill and its reauthorization in 2015 which extended the VCF for five years. Unfortunately, funds for the program are running out, and the Special Master may have to cut payments to victims by as much as seventy (70) percent. This program should have created a mandatory spending item from the beginning.

The attacks of September 11, 2001, were directed at the United States of America, and the victims deserve our nation's support. Congress must act quickly to ensure that survivors will continue to receive health care and compensation indefinitely.

We urge you to support permanent authorization of the Victim Compensation Fund and cosponsor S. 546.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

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