



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS July 22, 2019

MICHAEL McHALE

President

Florida Police Benevolent
Association

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

JOHN A. FLYNN

Vice President

Police Benevolent
Association of New York City

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the nation, I am writing to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 1327, the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act and urge you to reject Senator Lee's amendment (S.Amdt.928) and Senator Paul's amendment (S.Amdt.929) to the bill. We ask you to support the final passage of H.R. 1327 when the Senate votes on it tomorrow.

TODD HARRISON

Recording Secretary

Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN

Treasurer

Massachusetts Coalition
of Police

The House passed H.R. 1327 by a resounding 402-12 vote on July 12. The Senate version, S. 546, has 74 cosponsors. This is unequivocal evidence that there is overwhelming support for passing a clean, permanent authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF).

MARC KOVAR

Sergeant-at-Arms

New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

CRAIG D. LALLY

Executive Secretary

Los Angeles Police
Protective League

This year will mark the 18th anniversary of the deadliest terrorist attack on our nation's soil. As we remember those who died on September 11, 2001, we also must recognize those we continue to lose as the lasting effects of that day make themselves known. We have lost more federal, state and local law enforcement officers from 9/11-related illnesses over the past 17 years than we lost on September 11, 2001. 9/11 responders and survivors are still battling serious health crises resulting from exposure to the toxins at Ground Zero.

MARK YOUNG

Vice President,

Associate Members

Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER

Parliamentarian

Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

We cannot wait any longer to permanently authorize the VCF. We have lost two first responders to 9/11-related health conditions in the past week alone. They died without their families knowing if they will get the much-needed financial lifeline of a full VCF award. The amendments offered by Senators Lee and Paul will only delay this vital legislation and create more uncertainty for 9/11 responders and their families.

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and

General Counsel

Senator Lee's amendment would cap the program at \$10.2 billion for the first ten years and then cap funding at \$10 billion for the remainder of the life of the program. We have done this dance before in 2010 and 2015 and each time the funding was not enough. 9/11 responders had to come back to Congress and ask for more funding. The 2015 bill ran out of funding in three years, which is why we are back fighting to permanently reauthorize this program, why NYPD Detective Luis Alvarez came back to testify before the House Judiciary Committee just weeks before he succumbed to a 9/11-related cancer. We cannot ask these heroes, who responded to the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville on September 11, 2001, and put in thousands of hours doing rescue and recovery work, to come back yet again to ask for more money. This amendment defeats the purpose of this bill.

Senator Paul's amendment would implement a \$2 billion across-the-board cut to all federal spending over five years. It would take vital funding away from other government programs, including defense, counter-terrorism, farm and rural assistance, and health research. It creates such opposition that its adoption would doom the bill.

This legislation honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation. It is our obligation and duty to remember these heroes and ensure that survivors who risked their lives to protect us continue to receive the compensation that they deserve. That is why we urge you to vote no and reject the amendments offered by Senators Lee and Paul and vote yes in support of final passage of H.R. 1327.

NAPO stands ready to support any efforts necessary to pass this legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director