

## **Join in cosponsoring the “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act.”**

July 28, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

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

After the attack, thousands of responders rushed to the scenes and spent months combing through the wreckage looking for remains. In New York, the residents and workers were urged by the government to return to their homes and business and reopen the Financial District. The federal government assured them that the air they were breathing was safe, when in fact it was filled with toxic pollutants that continue to kill and disable 9/11 responders and survivors to this day.

In 2010, Congress finally responded to this health crisis with bipartisan action by passing the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which created the [World Trade Center Health Program](#) (WTCHP) and reopened the September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund.

In subsequent years, Congress, with bipartisan support in 2015 and 2019, moved to expand both programs’ funding and extend their authorizations to ensure that both those injured and their families would get the help they need and deserve.

Today, the WTCHP provides medical treatment and monitoring for over 110,000 responders and survivors from the World Trade Center and lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville crash site, who live in [every State](#) and in 434 out of 435 Congressional Districts.

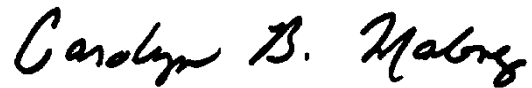
While Congress extended the program to 2090, the funding needs of the program exceed the formula written into the law that call for inflationary adjustments each year. Because of that, in the coming years, the WTCHP will not have enough funds to provide care for those still suffering the physical and mental impact of 9/11. This includes the responders and survivors who will be newly diagnosed with 9/11-associated cancers caused by their toxic exposures.

As the nation observes the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, this legislation is needed to ensure that the slogan that we will “Never Forget 9/11” is a reality and that 9/11 responders and survivors will continue to get the care that they need and deserve.

The *9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act* would address this funding shortfall and ensure adequate funding now and in the future. It would also make minor corrections to the 2010 statute and authorize the program to develop a research cohort to study the impact of the toxic exposures and psychological trauma on the more than 35,000 people who were children at the time of the attack and who resided or attended school or daycare in the NYC disaster area in the aftermath of the attack.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or to learn more, please have your staff contact Rebecca Damante at [Rebecca.Damante@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Damante@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Maloney, Melissa Connolly at [Melissa.Connolly@mail.house.gov](mailto:Melissa.Connolly@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Nadler, or Kevin Gannon at [Kevin.Gannon@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kevin.Gannon@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Garbarino.

Sincerely,



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Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney



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Congressman Jerrold Nadler



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Congressman Andrew R. Garbarino