

LOCAL 1180

6 Harrison Street



COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

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GLORIA MIDDLETON
President

August 17, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of Communications Workers of America Local 1180's 9,000 members, plus our retirees, and families, I write to ask for your support of S.2683/H.R.4965, the "9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act," sponsored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Carolyn Maloney.

The World Trade Center Health Program has been reauthorized by Congress until 2090 because the program's efficacy is undisputed and needs are urgent. Unfortunately, the reauthorization imposed yearly spending caps tied to inflation. Since medical inflation has increased faster than regular inflation, however, the program faces a projected funding shortfall starting in 2025. If allowed to continue with these caps, the care for the Heroes of 9/11, many suffering from 9/11-associated cancers caused by their toxic exposures, is once again in danger.

Currently, the program serves responders and survivors from the World Trade Center and lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville crash site, who live in every state and 434 out of 435 Congressional districts.

The "9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act" would ensure there is adequate funding for the World Trade Center Health Program to deal with the projected shortfall. It also would address other statutory issues, including providing greater flexibility in program certifications, making the Program Administrator responsible for credentialing providers, and developing a cohort to study the impact of the toxins and the attacks on emerging youth's health.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of September 11th, we must all renew our commitment to fighting for responders and survivors. Passing S.2683/H.R.4965 is a critical way for Congress to demonstrate through decisive action that "Never Forget" is more than a slogan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Middleton".