

SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

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August 24, 2021

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The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Maloney, Garbarino, and Nadler:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 active and retired members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 4965, the "9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act." We appreciate your ongoing commitment and leadership on behalf of the heroes and survivors of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our nation.

In just a few short weeks, our nation will mark the 20th anniversary of the most heinous terrorist attack in U.S. history. Each year, the approach of September 11th brings fresh reminders of the nearly 3,000 men, women, and children who perished in the air and on the ground on that fateful day in 2001. It also reminds us that the toll of the 9/11 attacks is still being felt in communities across this country. This includes more than 3,400 first responders who have died from a World Trade Center (WTC)-related health condition and the more than 111,000 Americans receiving health monitoring or treatment for these conditions through the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP). To date, more than 65,000 individuals have been certified with at least one WTC-related health condition, including various types of cancer, aerodigestive disease, and WTC-exacerbated Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Today the WTCHP serves individuals in all 50 U.S. states and in 434 of the nation's 435 congressional districts.

Since its creation in 2011, those who are sick and those exposed to the deadly cocktail of toxins at Ground Zero have found support and assistance through the WTCHP. The passage in 2015 of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act permanently reauthorized this vital program, ensuring that those who suffered long-term health effects from the

countless hours spent engaging in rescue and recovery efforts would not be forgotten. In the coming years, however, the funding needs of the program will exceed the formula written into that law. If left unaddressed, the WTCHP will not have the resources necessary to continue providing care for those still suffering from the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

The legislation you have introduced seeks to ensure the continuation of the vital health services provided by the WTCHP and will support the important ongoing research into the diagnosis and treatment of WTC-related health conditions. Specifically, H.R. 4965 will revise the existing statutory funding formula to enable the WTCHP to continue important work on behalf of 9/11 responders. The bill also makes important changes to improve the ability of the WTCHP to certify both health care providers and WTC-related health conditions, as well as provide an increase of \$5 million per year for research activities.

The SBA is proud to stand beside you again as we work to ensure the continuation of the WTCHP's important work on behalf of our nation's 9/11 responders. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue, and please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg at (202) 457 – 7756, if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mullins".

Ed Mullins
President