



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

EDWARD A. KELLY  
General President

FRANK V. LÍMA  
General Secretary-Treasurer

June 2, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
H-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitchell McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the more than 328,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, I urge you to support the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act (H.R. 4965/S. 2683). The World Trade Center Health Program (the Program) supports 115,000 first responders and survivors of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terror attacks and will face a funding shortfall in 2025. The IAFF urges Congress to care for our 9/11 first responders and survivors by passing H.R. 4965/S. 2683. These first responders served our nation on 9/11, and now Congress must stand with them when they are in need.

As we approach the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of 9/11, we continue to see an ever-growing number of illnesses among the first responders and survivors of the 9/11 attacks. We have lost 271 fire fighters from the Fire Department of New York alone to 9/11-related cancers and other diseases – a number almost equal to the 343 fire fighters we lost during the attacks themselves. The Program provides health monitoring and treatment to more than 82,000 fire fighters from New York City and around the nation who served in response and recovery roles following the attacks. Since its inception, the Program has identified nearly 65,000 incidences of cancer, aerodigestive conditions, mental health needs, and musculoskeletal injuries. Last year alone, the Program provided more than 46,000 screening exams and 38,000 treatments for enrollees.

While Congress reauthorized the Program in 2015, the rising cost of healthcare and the growth of new enrollees is outpacing the spending caps. The Program is in peril and will experience a funding shortfall in 2025. H.R. 4965/S. 2683 provides essential adjustments to the Program's funding and other healthcare mechanisms to ensure that it will have the stability to continue caring for the fire and EMS personnel who served on 9/11.

The IAFF urges you to continue standing with our 9/11 first responders. Without Congressional action, these individuals will lose the health monitoring and treatments they have relied upon for more than 20 years. I look forward to working with you to secure the passage of this legislation and meet the needs of all 9/11 first responders and survivors.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Kelly  
General President