

September 14, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Madam Speaker, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing more than 450,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and executives, we write to urge you to address the critical need to provide an additional \$3 billion in funding for the World Trade Center Health Program. We further request that this funding—which is included in S. 2683/H.R. 4965, the “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Corrections Act”—be included in any must-pass legislation Congress considers this year.

For the men and women we represent, this is not the first time that we have had to ask Congress to come together in support of the tens of thousands of first responders who are suffering from 9/11-related illnesses. We were on Capitol Hill in the early 2000s urging Congress to pass the original James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which established the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and reopened the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). Though we lost many members to 9/11-related health conditions in the intervening years, we returned in 2015 and again in 2019 to push for permanent reauthorizations of the WTCHP and VCF, respectively. Collectively, these measures ensure that those who are sick and those who were exposed to the deadly cocktail of toxins at Ground Zero, Shanksville, and the Pentagon could find the support and assistance they need.

While the WTCHP has operated as Congress intended, the simple fact is that a confluence of external factors such as inflation in medical costs have put at risk funding for the health monitoring and treatment services the Program provides. In the coming years, this will result in the needs of the WTCHP exceeding the funding formula written into law. If left unaddressed, the WTCHP will be forced to cut services and will be unable to continue providing the same level and standard of care required to treat the myriad health conditions and cancers with which our members must now contend. Any such reduction in current operations due to congressional inaction would be an insult to the thousands of law enforcement heroes who answered the call 21 years ago in response to the worst terrorist attack in our nation’s history.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations strongly urge you to expedite consideration of this additional funding and send it to the President as quickly as possible. We stand ready to work with you to do just that.

Sincerely,

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
Major Cities Chiefs Association
National Association of Police Organizations
National Treasury Employees Union
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD
Florida Police Benevolent Association

FBI Agents Association
Major County Sheriffs of America
National Sheriffs’ Association
National Troopers Coalition
Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI
Fort Worth Police Officers Association

Las Vegas Police Managers and
Supervisors Association
Massachusetts Coalition of Police
Nassau County Police Benevolent Association
New Jersey State Troopers NCO Association
Oakland Police Officers' Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California
Police Benevolent Association of the
New York State Troopers
Police Benevolent & Protective Association
of Illinois
Port Authority Sergeants Benevolent Association
State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers
Syracuse Police Benevolent Association

Las Vegas Police Protective Association
Maricopa County Colleges Police Officers
Association
Nassau County Superior Officers Association
NYPD Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc.
Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
Police Benevolent Association of the City of
New York
Police Conference of New York
Port Authority Police Benevolent Association
San Jose Police Officers' Association
Seattle Police Officers' Guild
Suffolk County Superior Officers Association
Wisconsin Professional Police Association