

**Congressional Fire Services Institute • International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters • Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
National Association of Police Organizations • National Fire Protection Association
National Volunteer Fire Council • Sergeants Benevolent Association, NYPD**

December 7, 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 Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of our organizations, which represent the majority of emergency responders across the United States, we urge you to support the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act (H.R. 4965/S. 2683) and include this legislation in any legislative package that Congress may consider this year. The World Trade Center Health Program (the Program) supports 115,000 first responders and survivors of the September 11th terror attacks and faces a funding shortfall beginning in 2024. Our organizations urge Congress to care for our 9/11 first responders and survivors by passing H.R. 4965/S. 2683 before the end of the 117th Congress. Dedicated fire fighters, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, and law enforcement officers served our nation on 9/11, and now Congress must answer their call for help.

After recently marking the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, we continue to see an ever-growing number of illnesses among the first responders and survivors of the 9/11 attacks. More than 300 fire fighters and 250 police officers from New York City alone have died from 9/11-related illnesses. The Program provides health monitoring and treatment to more than 82,000 first responders from 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.

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 2024 if no action is taken. H.R 4965/S. 2683 provides essential adjustments to the Program's funding and other healthcare mechanisms to ensure the Program will have the stability to continue caring for our first responders who served on 9/11.

We urge you to continue standing with our 9/11 first responders. Without Congressional action, these individuals will lose the health monitoring and treatments that they have relied upon for more than 20 years. We 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,

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