



New York State
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road
P.O. Box 12414
Albany, NY 12212-2414

(518) 785-1900
(800) 342-4306
Fax (518) 785-1814

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March 6, 2023

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the 50,000 members of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), I am asking for your support of the recently introduced "9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act of 2023." This bill is sponsored by New Yorkers Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Andrew Garbarino (S.569/H.R. 1294)

This legislation will ensure that funding is in place to care for all of the heroes who volunteered in the rescue and recovery efforts in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. Several of these heroes are PEF members and their courage during the time of great national tragedy is difficult to quantify and must not be forgotten. All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the volunteers who risked their own well being trying to help others.

We now know that the last reauthorization of the World Trade Center Health Program in 2015 did not provide enough funding to keep the necessary programs solvent. It is expected that this bill will allow for the expected deficit over the next ten years to be eliminated. While the programs are authorized through 2090, we know that funding must also be included for the necessary health expenses, which can be difficult to predict.

It is incumbent upon Congress to make sure that all of the workers who volunteered to help in the days and weeks after 9/11 be provided with the health care they deserve. Many shortened their lives due to their prolonged exposure to toxic chemicals and carcinogens. Seeing that these heroes are properly care for is the least we can do and we must do it now.

Sincerely,

Wayne Spence
President