



CITY EMPLOYEES UNION LOCAL 237
AFFILIATED WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



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March 21, 2023

Dear Member of Congress:

S.569/H.R.1294, the “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act of 2023,” sponsored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Andrew Garbarino is strongly supported by Teamsters Local 237, with nearly 24,000 members, making it the largest public sector Local of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. We are asking you to support the legislation too.

As you may know, the health crisis resulting from exposure to 9/11 toxins continues. Although Congress created the World Trade Center Health Program to serve responders and survivors from the World Trade Center and lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville crash site, who live in every State and 434 out of 435 Congressional Districts, a program reauthorization voted by Congress in 2015 imposed yearly spending caps tied to inflation. As a result of costs and program participation outpacing projections, the program faces a funding shortfall in the coming years. Unfortunately, this means care for the heroes of 9/11, many suffering from 9/11-associated cancers caused by toxic exposures, is once again in danger. Despite a provision in the end of the year Omnibus package that provided one billion dollars to the program, it was not enough to fill the impending deficit over the next ten years, and it did not fix the funding formula for subsequent years.

The projected shortfall as well as the interpretation by the Department of Health and Human Services as to the status of 9/11 responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville who were active-duty DOD military or civilians, as well as other Federal employees, has led to many being excluded from the World Trade Center Health Program.

These issues must be rectified.

It is the intent of the “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act of 2023” to do just that by ensuring adequate funding for the World Trade Center Health Program and correcting four minor issues in the text of the initial law regarding flexibility in certain program positions, certifications in the program, credentialing providers, and calculating enrollment and time requirements for processing new conditions.

I urge you to support the passage of this legislation which underscores the humanity of our nation. Thank you and should you have any questions, please have your staff contact Phyllis Shafran, pshafran@local237.org.

In solidarity,

Gregory Floyd,

President, Teamsters Local 237 and Vice President at-Large on the General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters