

# **Memo in Support of “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act of 2023”**

## **HR. 1294 Garbarino (R-NY) S. 569 Gillibrand (D-NY)**

Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act supports the passage of the “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act of 2023” HR. 1294, Garbarino (R-NY) and S. 569 Gillibrand (D-NY).

Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act is a broad coalition of unions and advocates who have worked over the years to build Congressional support for 9/11 responders and survivors and their families who are still dealing with the impact of the health impact of the toxins at Ground Zero, the Pentagon and Shanksville.

Currently, after years of advocacy, the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) provides medical treatment and monitoring for over 122,000 9/11 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](#).

Since its reauthorization in 2015, costs for the program and increases in participation by injured 9/11 responders and survivors coming forward seeking care have increased beyond what was projected in the 2015 extension and because of those increased costs, the program now faces a projected funding shortfall in the coming years.

Without additional action, the World Trade Center Health Program will not have enough funds to provide care for those still suffering the physical and mental impact of 9/11. This includes the responders and survivors who will be newly diagnosed with 9/11 associated cancers caused by their toxic exposures that we expect will grow in number.

In addition, some retired military and other Federal responders to the Pentagon and Shanksville have been prevented from enrolling in the program.

This legislation, prepared by Representative Garbarino and Senator Gillibrand is needed to ensure that the slogan that we will never forget 9/11 is a reality and that 9/11 responders and survivors will continue to get the care that they need and deserve. This legislation would:

- address the projected funding shortfall thru the authorized life of the program.
- ensure that all 9/11 responders to the Pentagon and Shanksville who were active-duty DOD military or civilians, along with other Federal employees, would be able to join the program.
- correct 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.

9/11 should be more than a bumper sticker.

For more information, please go to our website <https://www.renew911health.org> or to learn what you can do to help go to: “Take Action” <https://www.renew911health.org/fully-fund-911-health/>