

Join in cosponsoring the “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act.”

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in supporting the brave men and women who ran towards danger and helped in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks by cosponsoring the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act.

Everyone remembers the 2,997 people who perished from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Those of us in New York also remember promises that the air around Ground Zero was safe, but sadly that promise proved to be false. As a result, in the years since the attack, tens of thousands of first responders, law enforcement, and relief workers have lost their lives or fallen sick after assisting with the clean-up.

In response, Congress passed the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which created the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. In subsequent years, Congress, with bipartisan support in 2015 and 2019, moved to expand both programs’ funding and extend their authorizations to ensure that both those injured and their families get the help they need and deserve.

Today, the WTCHP provides medical treatment and monitoring for over 120,000 first responders and survivors, spanning every state and all but one congressional district. It is also worth noting that the WTCHP has been consistently free of reports of fraud since its inception.

While in 2015, Congress extended the program to 2090, the precipitous rise in medical costs and cancer rates in survivors and first responders since then has led to an impending funding shortfall that must be addressed. Unless Congress acts, the program will have to announce in 2027 that responders and survivors who suffer from an illness arising out of their heroic service to our country will not be able to join the program, and that starting in 2028, the program will bar new enrollees along with make other anticipated cuts in services. If Congress does not quickly address this, the men and women who put their lives on the line will lose health coverage to treat the physical and mental illnesses they sustained from responding to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act addresses this funding shortfall and ensures adequate funding for years to come. It also fixes an issue that has prevented all active duty servicemembers, DOD civilians and other federal responders who responded to the Pentagon and Shanksville crash sites from joining the WTCHP by allowing them to be eligible to join the program. Finally, it makes a series of minor technical changes to the statute to streamline its operations.

To honor those we lost and to thank those who risked everything to save their fellow Americans, we urge you to co-sponsor this legislation and join us in supporting our first responders. In doing so, we would guarantee that these heroic men and women are able to continue to receive the health care benefits they sorely deserve. Please contact Kevin Gannon at kevin.gannon@mail.house.gov in Rep. Garbarino’s office or Andrew Heineman at andrew.heineman@mail.house.gov in Rep. Nadler’s office to co-sponsor this legislation

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Anthony D’Esposito
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress