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GOVERNMENT REFORM

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
[SENIOR HOUSE DEMOCRAT]



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3212

TESTIMONY OF CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY
The New York City Council, Committee on Civil Service and Labor
Council Chambers, City Hall
March 30, 2015

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I would like to thank Committee Chair, Councilmember Miller, for holding this hearing and for co-sponsoring the resolution calling on the United States Congress to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

I would also like to thank Councilmember Chin and the City Council for supporting this vital reauthorization legislation just as it did when we made a push to pass the original James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. I am pleased to be working again with my colleagues and friends Congressmen Jerrold Nadler and Peter King, as well as our colleagues in the New York Congressional delegation and other members of congress.

It seems that every week I hear of the passing of a first responder from 9/11-related medical complications. Since 9/11 more than 82 New York Police officers and over 90 New York Firefighters have died from their 9/11-related illnesses. We now know that the air was not safe and that in the aftermath of the collapse of the Twin Towers the first responders, recovery workers, community residents, area workers, and school children were exposed to a toxic concoction that has led to a variety of medical complications ranging from asthma to Gastroesophageal reflux disorder (GERD) to cancers like mesothelioma and leukemia.

In 2010 Congress reaffirmed its commitment to never forget the sacrifices made on September 11th by passing the bipartisan *James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010* (P.L. 111-347). That law established the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program and the Nationwide Provider Network and reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide the thousands of injured and ill 9/11 responders and survivors with medical treatment for 9/11-related health conditions and economic compensation for losses resulting from the attack. The authorization for those two programs expires this Congress, which is why Reps. Nadler, King and I, along with Sens. Gillibrand and Schumer, plan to introduce the *James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act*.

Thanks to the Zadroga Act, over 70,000 responders or survivors are getting treatment or medical monitoring across the country. The individuals receiving care have at least one injury, though many have multiple injuries, and more than 3,800 of those have been certified as having a 9/11-related cancer.

The Zadroga Act also reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide for economic damages and loss for individuals losses incurred from the aftermath of the attacks. The VCF has made almost 4,100 compensation determinations and has deemed over 10,000 injured 9/11 individuals eligible for compensation.

The programs cover those present on and in the aftermath of 9/11 in parts of New York City, and at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. There are participants in the Health Program from all 50 states and individuals receiving treatment currently reside in 429 of the 435 Congressional Districts so we are gathering bipartisan support from our Congressional colleagues across the country to reauthorize this important law.

I thank you all for holding this important hearing and bringing up this resolution calling for passage of the *James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act*. It is for those individuals that we've lost and those who are sick and injured from 9/11 that we must fight to renew the Zadroga Act programs.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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CONGRESSMAN JERROLD NADLER

Testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor

"James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act"

March 30, 2015

September 11, 2001, forever changed the City of New York. Today, we remember those who displayed unparalleled bravery and courage on that morning, and in the weeks following, as they risked their lives to search for victims among the rubble and to return to their homes, schools and workplaces downtown. Over the past 14 years, the negative health effects of the toxic work site at Ground Zero, a site the federal government assured New Yorkers was safe, are clear. More than 30,000 responders and survivors are struggling with one or more chronic illnesses, and many are disabled and no longer able to work. Nearly 3,000 have been diagnosed with one of the 60 cancers medical research has linked to exposure at Ground Zero. Tragically, more than 60 NYPD officers and 70 New York Firefighters have died from illnesses linked to September 11.

For that reason, I was proud to work with my Congressional colleagues to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act in 2010. This necessary legislation established the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and reopened the Victims Compensation Fund

(VCF) to ensure that tens of thousands of New Yorkers and people around the country have access to the care and support they need to treat and monitor 9/11-related illnesses.

The programs are working. Residents of all 50 states are enrolled in the WTCHP and receiving care for a wide array of 9/11-related illnesses. These chronic, often life-threatening, illnesses are a major economic burden for these responders and survivors. The WTCHP eases this burden and ensures that every first responder and survivor can receive the treatment they need. Similarly, the VCF has provided economic compensation to individuals around the country who were injured on 9/11 and during the aftermath. To date, the program has provided more than 3,000 responders and residents over \$804 million in compensation, a number that continues to grow every day.

But our work is not done. In October 2015, the WTCHP will expire, followed by the VCF in October 2016. Congress must act to reauthorize these vital, life-saving, national programs before they expire. I am proud to be working with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Congressman Peter King on legislation to reauthorize these programs. The reauthorization we will introduce this year will extend the WTCHP and VCF for 25 years, through 2041, ensuring that individuals with chronic illnesses, or who develop cancers with long latency periods like mesothelioma, will not lose access to care or support at the moment they need it most. Reauthorization will also enable the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to continue researching 9/11-related illnesses to develop new treatment and cures for those impacted by the attacks. It will also maintain the city's 10 percent cost-share of the WTCHP and continue the World Trade Center Health Registry to monitor the health of first responders and residents.

We will never forget those we lost on September 11, and we will never forget the strength, bravery, and resilience our city demonstrated that morning. And we must never abandon the brave first responders and survivors who risked everything in the days, weeks, and months following the attacks to rebuild our city and their lives.

We must reauthorize these programs. Just as they did not hesitate to answer our call 14 years ago, we cannot turn our back on them now. We stood together as a nation on September 11, and we stood strong in 2010 to create these programs. We must join forces again to ensure that the first responders and survivors are not abandoned when they need us the most. I urge the council to adopt this resolution and send a clear message to my colleagues in Congress that we must pass reauthorization this year.

Testimony of Lee Clarke
Member Board of Directors,
Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act. Inc.
New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor
March 30, 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor. My name is Lee Clarke and I am here today on behalf of Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act, of which I am a founding member of its Board of Directors, speaking in support of Councilwoman Chen's Resolution.

Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act was put together by the New York State AFL CIO, its affiliated unions as well as unaffiliated unions and groups that all worked and fought so hard for so long to get Washington to respond to the health crisis facing thousands of New Yorkers and thousands who came from across the nation who are, 14 years later, injured and ill and many dying from their exposure to toxins at Ground Zero.

I want to thank my friend, Chairperson, Daneek Miller, Councilwoman, Chen and her fellow co-sponsors of Resolution 553-A, for introducing this resolution and calling this Hearing today.

Having worked many years with many of the people here in the audience today, along with our Bi Partisan Congressional Delegation, to get Washington to acknowledge the serious injuries facing thousands, I can tell you that any action like this, that calls attention to the size and scope of the problem is helpful to the tough fight we have coming up.

Here in this building, just blocks from what was Ground Zero, no one has to be reminded about that day and its aftermath, but regrettably, there are too many in our Nation's capital that do.

While there are lots of politicians on both sides of the aisle who talk about "Never Forgetting 9/11" too many have, and too many just do not realize the extent of the impact that is still being felt among the thousands of injured Responders and Survivors and their families.

I know everyone in this room knows the statistics but it bears repeating a few of them.

There are more than 30,000 Responders and Survivors with at least one injury from 9/11. Many have multiple injuries that are chronic and disabling. There are over 7,800 survivors, residents, area workers, students who are sick, and there are over 3,800 with a 9/11 cancer.

That over 80 members of the NY Police Department and over 90 NYC Firefighters and Fire Officers have died from their 9/11 injuries, since 9/11 with more dying every month.

This really should not be a fight to get Congress to renew the legislation.

We should not have to be lobbying Congress to make sure that the Zadroga law that is providing the Health Care and Compensation to thousands is renewed, but regrettably we will, but by calling attention to the issue the City Council is helping to move the issue and keep it in the public mind so I want to thank the Council for taking this action today.

Testimony on behalf of the WTC Health Program's Survivors Steering Committee

New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor

**Public Hearing on Proposed Res. No. 533-A,
A resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the
James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act**

Monday, March 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall

On behalf of the World Trade Center Health Program's Survivors Steering Committee (SSC), we would like to thank the Civil Service and Labor Committee, Chairman Miller, Council Speaker Mark-Viverito and Council member Chin for holding this hearing on the need for reauthorization of the James Zadroga Act.

As you know, the Zadroga Act created the federal World Trade Center Health Program that provides for the 9/11-related health needs of both responders and of residents, students and area workers – groups defined by the Act as WTC “survivors.”

The majority of survivors receive WTC specialized care locally, through the WTC Environmental Health Center, the Center of Excellence for those who are sick as a result of being exposed to the WTC disaster in Lower Manhattan or Western Brooklyn. The EHC has WTC clinics in in three of the Health and Hospitals Corporation's public hospitals--Bellevue, Gouverneur and Elmhurst.

Survivors who have moved away from New York, or people who were visiting New York City and were caught in the dust/debris cloud on 9/11, can now receive their WTC treatment through the WTC Health Program's extensive Nationwide Provider Network. All care, locally and nationally, is provided to eligible survivors at no out-of-pocket cost.

The Survivors Steering Committee, of which I am a member, was created by Zadroga to advise the WTC Health Program on the evolving 9/11 health needs of those suffering from WTC physical or mental health impacts that include conditions like PTSD, depression, sinusitis, asthma and more than 50 cancers.

The SSC is comprised of a broad range of community, labor and environmental organizations as well as key staff of the WTC EHC, including its medical director and executive director. The City's Department of Health also provides a representative to the SSC.

More than 60,000 affected responders and survivors are currently receiving care from the WTC Health Program. As of March 2015, 8,276 survivors are enrolled in the WTC EHC's survivor program, including pediatric patients ages 14 through 18.

Of those, approximately 400 have been diagnosed with a WTC-related cancer; a number of patients have been diagnosed with 2 or more. These survivors are receiving their cancer care

through the WTC Health Program at some of the best cancer centers in the country, such as Memorial Sloan Kettering.

Those who still suffer from the attacks on our city and our nation have come to depend on the WTC Health Program for their health, and for some, their lives. It is unthinkable that the federal government would cut off the funding stream, and thus cut off care to the people who came under attack on September 11th and the heroes who came to their rescue.

Thank you.



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor Public Hearing on

Proposed Res. No. 533-A,

**A resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the
James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act**

**Testimony by Catherine McVay Hughes, Chairperson
Manhattan Community Board 1**

**Monday, March 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall**

Thank you, Chairperson Miller, Council Speaker Mark-Viverito, Council Member Chin and Committee Members for holding this important hearing today and inviting our testimony. My name is Catherine McVay Hughes, and I represent Community District 1 in Lower Manhattan where I am Chair of Community Board 1 (CB1). Our district includes most of Manhattan below Canal Street and south of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The World Trade Center (WTC) lies at the heart of CB1 – and many of us who were here when the towers were attacked are still living and working here. Some of us volunteered as first responders and many of us continued to work or attend school downtown in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. CB1 has strongly supported the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act for many years, and we were very glad when the bill finally passed at the very end of the federal legislative session at the end of 2010. It is critical that the World Trade Center Health Program continue to provide treatment and monitoring to those whose health has been harmed by the 9/11 attacks.

CB1 remains strongly committed to the James Zadroga Act and other legislative initiatives to address the health and environmental ramifications of 9/11 for our Lower Manhattan community, first responders and other stakeholders. In this regard we commend U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) who announced on March 27 the passage of their amendment to the Senate budget resolution that will facilitate future legislation to renew and extend the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

On February 5, 2015 our Full Board passed the following resolution in support of proposed Res. No. 533-A which is before you today:

WHEREAS: Council Member Margaret Chin has co-sponsored a resolution in the New York City Council calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act (Res 0533-2015); and

WHEREAS: The resolution was referred to the Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor on January 7, 2015; and

WHEREAS: CB1 requests that The City Council resolution be amended to include the two following items:

- WHEREAS: Various documented chronic debilitating illnesses continue to affect first responders, residents, and volunteers today and will do so in the future, and
- WHEREAS: Funding for the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act should be appropriated as a yearly budgeted line item to insure continued medical care when an illness presents itself at any time, and

WHEREAS: The attached resolution was reviewed by CB1; now

THEREFORE

BE IT

RESOLVED

THAT: CB1 supports the resolution and calls on the Committee on Civil Service and Labor and the City Council to amend and adopt resolution 0533-2015 calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

Proposed Res. No. 533-A

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

By Council Members Chin, The Speaker (Council Member Mark-Viverito), Vallone, Miller, Cohen, Constantinides, Eugene, Gentile, Gibson, Johnson, Koo, Lander, Levine, Mendez, Richards, Rodriguez, Rose, Wills, Levin and Ulrich

Whereas, The Nation remembers the 2,977 people who were killed on 9/11 in New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania; among them 343 members of the New York Fire Department, 23 members of the New York City Police Department, and 37 Port Authority officers; and

Whereas, The Nation does not seem to know of the over 30,000 Americans who have been certified to suffer from at least one illnesses related to the 9/11 attacks and two thirds of those have more than one injury; and

Whereas, First responders in New York City are particularly hard hit; and

Whereas, More than 1,500 members of the New York City Fire Department (Firefighters and EMS workers) and more than 550 members of the Police Department have had to leave their jobs because of their disabling 9/11 related illnesses that were severe enough to be granted a WTC disability pension; and

Whereas, Over 3,600 Responders and Survivors have been certified with a 9/11 related cancer, of which over 950 are New York City Fire Department Personal (Firefighters and EMS workers); and

Whereas, More than 90 members of the New York City Fire Department (Firefighters and EMS workers) and more than 80 New York City Police Officers have died from their 9/11 injuries since 9/11, with more dying every month; and

Whereas, While the majority of recipients live in the New York City area, many survivors and first responders of the 9/11 attacks live across the United States; and

Whereas, These individuals live in every State and in 429 out of 435 Congressional districts across the country; and

Whereas, The 2010 James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act was finally passed after years of delay by Washington to respond to the 9/11 Health Crisis and

Whereas, The Act created the World Trade Center Health Program (the “Program”), which provides health treatment to people who worked or resided in the vicinity of the World Trade Center on and after the events of September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, The Program is comprised of the “Responder Program” and the “Survivor Program”; and

Whereas, The Responder Program provides medical treatment for 9/11 injuries and medical monitoring to the personnel who carried out rescue and recovery duties at the World Trade site and has over 60,000 participating in it; and

Whereas, The Survivor Program provides services to individuals who lived, worked or went to school around the World Trade Center site and over 7,500 survivors who are injured are getting treatment for their 9/11 injuries; and

Whereas, In addition to authorizing the World Trade Center Health Program, the legislation will also reopen the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (“VCF”); and

Whereas, The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund is now compensating injured and ill 9/11 responders, survivors and their surviving families for economic losses related to their injuries; and

Whereas, The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act expires in October 2015; and

Whereas, Congress members Carolyn Maloney, Jerold Nadler and Peter King and United States Senators Kirsten E. Gillibrand and Charles Schumer will be reintroducing legislation, which would reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (the “Zadroga Act”); and

Whereas, Unless Congress acts to reauthorize the Zadroga Act thousands of injured and ill 9/11 responders and survivors are at risk of losing crucial health care; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

LS# 2703, 2706, 2875
March 20, 2015
GZ



Testimony by Charlene Obernauer, NYCOSH Executive Director

City Council Hearing re: Re-Authorization of Zadroga

March 30, 2015

The New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) appreciates this opportunity to testify before the New York City Council regarding the Council's resolution calling upon Congress to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act. First, we want to thank the Council for introducing this Bill, which is critical to continuing to support residents, volunteers, and workers who responded to 9/11. **We are recommending that the Council vote yes on this resolution.**

The Zadroga Act is critical to continuing to support heroes who responded to 9/11, along with residents who lived in the impacted area. People who were there for New York City after one of the biggest tragedies in our nation's history deserve the World Trade Center Health Program to always be there for them. Instead of telling listing all of the many reasons why this program is important, I want to tell the story of a worker who is a friend and hero to many of us in this room.

Francisco "Paco" Vega was one of many people who responded after 9/11. Mr. Vega, business manager of Heat & Frost Insulators Asbestos Workers Local 12A, was one of more than 2,300 asbestos workers hired to remove the toxic dust blown into surrounding buildings after the World Trade Center attacks. Like many other workers, including police officers and firefighters that were called in, Mr. Vega and the other workers were exposed to a wide array of toxins.

As federal and City officials said that the air outside was safe and Wall Street resumed business as usual, workers followed their lead, removing their respirators to eat lunch with the ruins of the World Trade Center as their backdrop, increasing their exposure and ingestion of toxic dust.

Mr. Vega, like so many other workers, volunteers, and residents, became sick after 9/11 as a result of his exposure.

While there are many asbestos and other workers that came forward with illnesses after 9/11, many have not, and some have not yet been diagnosed. For example, mesothelioma, common among asbestos workers and military service members, is a rare cancer that most commonly develops in the lining of the lungs. Symptoms of mesothelioma can take as long as fifty years to arise from the time someone is initially exposed to asbestos. Therefore, this cancer—along with many other illnesses—could emerge after the World Trade Center Health Program funding runs out in 2016, leaving many without health coverage.

NYCOSH and many other organizations and unions that did work after 9/11, are now mourning the recent death of Mr. Vega.

Today, we are calling on the City Council to ensure that the sacrifices and activism of many after 9/11 are not forgotten. None of us will forget Francisco “Paco” Vega and his advocacy for 9/11 responders. This resolution asks that the government not forget him, any so many others who so heroically served our country and our City.

Thank you.

**Contact: Charlene Obernauer, NYCOSH Executive Director,
212-227-6440 x15, charlene@nycosh.org**

New York City Council
Committee on Civil Service and Labor

Resolution 533-A

Support for the Reauthorization of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and
Compensation Act

Testimony of
Guille Mejia, MPH CHES
Director, Safety and Health Department
District Council 37
March 30, 2015

My name is Guille Mejia and I am the Director of the District Council 37 Safety and Health Department.

First, I want to thank Councilmember Miller and the members of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor for holding this hearing and providing a forum that allows all of us to send a strong and unified message to Congress that the Zadroga Act must be reauthorized. We applaud and support the City Council's resolution.

The establishment of the Federal World Trade Center Health Programs was recognition that the attack on September 11 was an assault on the nation. The response on September 11 and the weeks and months that followed, was unprecedented. The nation came together and workers from across the country came to NY and assisted with the rescue, recovery, and clean-up efforts. And when they arrived they found themselves in very dangerous conditions: unstable grounds; fires flaring unexpectedly; smoke spewing; pulverized debris strewn about; and the presence of high concentrations of multiple contaminants in the air and on surfaces. All of these conditions took a toll on the health of personnel at the site and in the surrounding areas.

And despite the horrific conditions, the responders, and clean-up workers along with the residents and area workers performed heroically. Today these individuals are suffering from the consequences of their determined actions. The health programs have provided some of them with hope that with quality medical care and treatment their lifespan will not be shortened. For others, their exposures were too great for their bodies to handle and have since passed away. Others are so incapacitated that they can no longer be employed.

Here are some metrics on the size and extent of the health crisis facing the responders, and survivors, including residents, students, and area workers:

- There are over 71000 individuals enrolled in the programs who are living in every State and are from 429 of 435 Congressional Districts.
- When this number is broken down by State you will find that: 2070 live in Florida; 475 are in California; Connecticut has 381 enrolled and Georgia has 268. Even Alaska has 29 individuals enrolled in the program.

So for those that think this is a NJ/NJ issue they are wrong. A list of membership by State (August 2014 data) is attached to my testimony.

- More than 8000 participate in the National Health program which provides treatment and monitoring to those living outside the NY metropolitan area and include responders from the Pentagon and Shanksville crash site.
- Over 30,000 have been diagnosed with at least one 9/11 condition and many have multiple health certified conditions.
- More than 3800 participants have been diagnosed with 9/11 certified cancers and this number is growing.

If the doors to the health programs are shut, 71000 individuals will be left without a safety net.

With our collective voice today, we are sending a strong message to Washington that the health program must be funded and that it cannot cease to exist as of 2016. DC 37 strongly supports the City Council Resolution asking for the reauthorization of the Zadroga Act.

Thank you!

World Trade Center Health Program Membership by State August 2014

State/Territory/Unassigned	Responder	Survivor	Total
Alabama	52	1-9	53-61
Alaska	29		29
Arizona	176	1-9	177-185
Arkansas	24	1-9	25-33
California	475	30	505
Colorado	132	1-9	133-141
Connecticut	381	48	429
Delaware	56	1-9	57-65
District of Columbia	32	1-9	33-41
Florida	2,070	113	2,183
Georgia	268	28	296
Hawaii	23	1-9	24-32
Idaho	13		13
Illinois	159	11	170
Indiana	62	1-9	63-71
Iowa	19	1-9	20-28
Kansas	23	1-9	24-32
Kentucky	38	1-9	39-47
Louisiana	27	1-9	28-36
Maine	44	1-9	45-53
Maryland	213	10	223
Massachusetts	274	1-9	275-283
Michigan	69	1-9	70-78
Minnesota	27	1-9	28-36
Mississippi	19		19
Missouri	54	1-9	55-63
Montana	17		17
Nebraska	32	1-9	33-41
Nevada	92	1-9	93-101
New Hampshire	59	1-9	60-68
New Jersey	4,402	503	4,905
New Mexico	54	1-9	55-63
New York	47,462	6,764	54,226
North Carolina	520	27	547

These data are de-identified. All data reported as "1-9" to protect confidentiality have at least one (1) but fewer than ten (10) members. Members for whom there is insufficient address information to assign to a state are reported in the "Unknown" category.

**TESTIMONY
IN
SUPPORT
OF
RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE**

THE JAMES L. ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH & COMPENSATION ACT

SUBMITTED

TO

NYC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

ON

MARCH 30, 2015

BY

**STANLEY MARK
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY**

**ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND
99 HUDSON STREET, 12TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10013**

212-966-5932

smark@aaldef.org

My name is Stanley Mark. I am the Senior Staff Attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), a national organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans by combining litigation, advocacy, community education, and organizing. AALDEF works with Asian American communities across the country to secure human rights for all. AALDEF supports the reauthorization of The James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act of 2010 and urges the New York City Council to pass a resolution to support Congressional reauthorization of this Act.

I am here today for my clients who live and work in Lower Manhattan including Chinatown and the Lower East Side. In the wake of the 9/11 WTC attack, thousands of survivors had relied on the statements of the Environmental Protection Agency asserting the air was safe when it was not. As a result, many survivors returned too soon to their homes and resumed working in Lower Manhattan. At that time, there was no federally funded 9/11 survivor-health program treating residents of Lower Manhattan. A movement lead by the Beyond Ground Zero Network, a coalition of workers centers, legal service organizations, health care advocates, and grass roots organizations initiated a small pilot 9/11 treatment program set up by doctors at Bellevue Hospital, now considered a 9/11 Center of Excellence under the landmark legislation known as The James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act of 2010. However, the federal funding runs out at the end of 2015. Unless this landmark legislation is reauthorized, 8,276 patients currently enrolled in the Health & Hospital Corporation World Trade Center Environmental Health Center Programs at Bellevue, Elmhurst, and Gouverneur hospitals would risk the loss of specialized treatment for 9/11 illnesses including certain cancers.

It should be noted that in zip code 10002 covering the eastern part of Chinatown and the Lower Eastside, more than 600 residents

have been treated since 2011 when this legislation went into effect. Congressional failure to reauthorize this Act would have a disparate impact on Asian Americans. According to the 2010 census, zip code 10002 has a total population of 81,410. Asian Americans comprise 47.8% of the neighborhoods in zip code 10002 while other persons of color comprise 18.5% and whites 33.7%. Without Congressional reauthorization of this legislation, not only would continued specialized medical treatment for these survivors be put in jeopardy, but also sufficient funding to evaluate clinical data for crucial research that follows these survivors and their treatment outcomes. Funding for this clinical research and other grant sources are particularly needy here since these survivors were ineligible to participate in the World Trade Center Health Registry (the data mother lode for research) due to the arbitrary street boundaries excluding most of Chinatown and the Lower East Side. These boundaries were initially set by 9/11 relief programs driven by national security policies after the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and continue to have a profound affect on these survivors whose data resulting from their specialized treatment are not included in many research studies that rely on the WTC Health Registry. For these reason, I urge the City Council to pass a resolution to support Congressional reauthorization of the James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act of 2010.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GRZEBORIO ROMERO
Address: 154-12 Booth B Memorial Ave.
I represent: DC 37. - Co-worker.
Address: 125 Barclay

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 3000
 in favor in opposition

Date: 3/30/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SHELBY GARNER
Address: 1651 3rd Ave., # 311 10128
I represent: REP. CAROLYN B MALONEY (NY12)
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MICHELLE KILPATRICK
Address: DC 37 / Local 375
I represent: Civil Service Ten H Guild
Address: NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 533-A

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/30/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Guille Mejia Safety + Health Director

Address: 125 Barclay St, Manhattan NY

I represent: PC 37, AFSCME

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/30/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jacqueline Blank

Address: 94 E 4th Street apt 306 NY NY 10003

I represent: Congressman Jerrold Nadler

Address: 201 Varick Street suite 609 NY NY 10014

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 533-A

in favor in opposition

Date: 30 March 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ester Regelson

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 533-A
 in favor in opposition
Date: 03/30/15

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Catherine McWay Hughes

Address: _____

I represent: Manhattan Community Board 1

Address: 49-51 Chambers St, 7th Floor

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 533-A
 in favor in opposition
Date: 30 March 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Merrima James

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. S33-A
 in favor in opposition

Date: 3/30/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Charlene Obernauer, Executive Director
Address: 61 Broadway, Suite 1710 NY NY 10006
I represent: New York Committee for Occupational Safety
Address: 11701 Park Ln S. apt 1224 ^{+ Health}
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. S33-A
 in favor in opposition

Date: 3/30/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lee Clarke
Address: 125 Barclay, Manhattan, NY
I represent: 9/11 Health Watch
Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms