



STATE OF NEW YORK

GEORGE E. PATAKI  
GOVERNOR

June 15, 2005

Dear Congressmen Lewis and Obey:

I would like to voice my strong concerns over a provision in the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill which would rescind \$125 million from the New York State Workers' Compensation Board sent to New York as part of the response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks.

Under P.L. 107-117, Congress provided and the United States Department of Labor granted, New York a total of \$175 million for the Workers' Compensation Board. The funding was divided into three funding streams--\$125 million for processing claims, \$25 million for paying benefits to the volunteers who responded to Ground Zero or the Staten Island Landfill, and \$25 million to pay claims to the employees of uninsured employers. These funds were made available "until expended."

Consistent with Congressional intent, I am requesting that all funds from the initial appropriation remain available to ensure that the continuing needs of affected individuals are met.

In addition, the New York State Workers' Compensation Board approved \$44 million in payments from the 9/11 Workers' Compensation fund to the Crime Victim's Board and the State Insurance Fund. While this transfer was authorized by the United States Department of Labor to pay related claims costs of individuals affected in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, the Government Accountability Office now states that the Department of Labor did not have proper Congressional authority to issue such approvals.

I would ask, therefore, that you support the amendment to be offered by Congressman James Walsh to retroactively authorize the transfer of the \$44 million and reverse the rescission of the \$125 million from the New York State Workers' Compensation Board.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. E. Pataki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "G." and last name "Pataki" clearly legible.

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Chair  
The Honorable David R. Obey  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

