

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2009

Mr. Peter Orszag
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

As you prepare the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget, we respectfully request that you continue to ensure a program level of \$182 million—the same as the FY09 program level—for World Trade Center Health Programs, which are coordinated by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The programs provide medical monitoring and treatment to WTC responders and community members who have become ill because of exposure to toxins at Ground Zero in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

As the Appropriations Committee noted in the explanatory statement to the FY09 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education bill, the FY09 program level for the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment program was \$182,000,000. There was approximately \$112,000,000 in carryover balances from prior year appropriated funds. Combined with the \$70,000,000 included in the FY09 bill, the total amount available for the WTC program was sufficient to continue to expand the program.

We expect that the program needs for FY10 will be at least as much as FY09, but that there will be much less carryover funding available, possibly as little as \$30 million. As you know, some carryover funding is necessary to ensure that the programs can continue to be funded into the next fiscal year and thus avoid the need to notify the participants that the funding for their medical treatment may be discontinued.


Previously, the development of essential services needed for the monitoring and treatment of these populations has been limited, which has slowed spending rates. For example, there are no provisions for providing adequate outreach and benefits counseling for people living outside of the New York City metropolitan area. These necessary services were not included in the contract awarded to provide medical services for that population. There are also needs for expanded benefits counseling services for participants in the New York City area responder and community programs due to the discontinuation of most of the assistance being provided to these populations by outside philanthropic groups. The current programs also do not have adequate support for evaluating the monitoring and treatment data being collected on the populations under their care. Support for the evaluation of these medical data is critical to recognize new disease patterns in these populations and to ensure that appropriate medical care is being provided.

Based on the additional funding needed to address the limitations imposed by the previous administration and the continued growth in the number of patients being served by both the responder and community programs, we request that the FY10 program level continue to be the same as last year's program level - \$182 million.

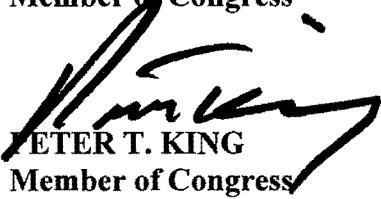
Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. McMAHON
Member of Congress