

H.R. 847, the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act

What is the problem?

- Thousands of first responders and others exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero are now injured and need our help. These include firefighters, rescue workers, responders, police officers and EMTs, construction workers, cleanup workers, residents, area workers, and school children, among others. Their illnesses include a range of respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental health conditions.
- Over 13,000 WTC responders are sick and receiving treatment. Nearly 53,000 responders are enrolled in medical monitoring. 71,000 individuals are enrolled in the WTC Health Registry, indicating that they were exposed to the toxins.
- At least 10,000 people came from around the country to help in the aftermath of the attacks. They hail from **every single state** in the Union and nearly every Congressional District. Many are sick and others are very concerned about their future health.
- Those who have economic losses because of their WTC-related illnesses need and deserve compensation, but have no alternative to the current litigation system. The WTC Contractors and the City of New York are being sued by over 11,000 people who are injured because of Ground Zero toxins. They face great financial loss because they were asked to help at Ground Zero in the country's time of need.

How H.R. 847 addresses the problem:

- Provides medical monitoring and treatment to WTC responders and survivors (area workers, residents, students) who were exposed to the toxins at Ground Zero.
- Builds on the existing monitoring and treatment program by delivering expert medical treatment for these unique exposures at Centers of Excellence.
- Reopens the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide compensation for economic losses and harm as an alternative to the current litigation system.
- Provides liability protections for the WTC Contractors and the City of New York.

Status of H.R. 847:

- The bill is ready to go to the floor. The Energy and Commerce Committee and the Judiciary Committee have reported out their sections of the bill.
- The cost of the bill has been reduced from \$10.5 billion to \$7.4 billion to ensure that the bill is completely paid for and PAY-GO neutral.
- The offset targets "treaty shopping" where a foreign company in a country without a U.S. treaty routes income through a third intermediary company with a treaty to take advantage of the intermediary company's tax reductions.