

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2009

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

Thank you for agreeing to meet with the New York Delegation on the issue of health care for World Trade Center responders and community members whose health has suffered from toxic exposures at Ground Zero in the aftermath of 9/11. We look forward to meeting with you on December 10, 2009, at 2:00 in H-137, the Capitol.

We respectfully request that you come to the meeting prepared to share the Administration's views on the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847 and S. 1334), along with substantive suggestions to improve the legislation. We look forward to discussing how we can best work together to move the bill forward.

We would also like an update on the existing World Trade Center Health Programs administered by CDC/NIOSH. Please plan to inform us of plans for continuing the current program and provision of services to responders since the grants/contracts for these programs are due to expire in 2010. We are particularly eager to hear about the inclusion of more robust outreach, benefits counseling, and data evaluation in these grants/contracts.

Additionally, we ask you to address why the Bush Administration's decision to halt plans for a WTC Business Processing Center (BPC) has not been reversed under the Obama Administration.

The intent of the WTC BPC was to secure the services of an experienced third party health care administrator who would work directly with the WTC Health Programs at NIOSH to administer the WTC Health Programs to improve efficiency, lower costs, and enhance data collection.

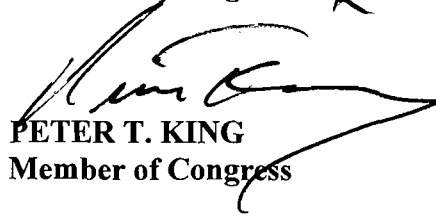
Finally, with work on the President's FY2011 budget already underway, the delegation would like to discuss funding for Fiscal Year 2011 and beyond. Consistent funding for these health programs ensures that there are no gaps in patient care.

Again, we look forward to meeting with you on December 10. Please feel free to contact Ben Chevat, Rep. Maloney's Chief of Staff, with any questions.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. McMAHON
Member of Congress