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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

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July 28, 2010

Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge you to vote for the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847) when the bill is considered by the House of Representatives. This bipartisan bill would provide medical monitoring, treatment, and compensation to emergency responders, recovery and clean-up workers, and community members suffering serious diseases as a result of hazardous exposures resulting from the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The bill would also reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide compensation for economic losses and harm for those who are sick.

On September 11, 2001 and during the following days and weeks, tens of thousands of emergency workers, construction workers, and others rushed to the World Trade Center (WTC) to assist in rescue and recovery operations. These workers and residents, and others near Ground Zero, were exposed to a toxic mix of dust and fumes from the collapse of the WTC and the subsequent fires, some of which lingered for months. The federal government told them the air was safe to breathe, and failed to enforce safety and health requirements. Now more than 15,000 responders and community members are sick, suffering from serious respiratory diseases and other health problems as a result of their exposures.

H.R. 847 establishes and authorizes the World Trade Center Health Program for a 10 year period. It provides medical monitoring and treatment through Centers of Excellence to ensure high quality, expert care. The bill is fiscally responsible. It caps the number of individuals who may participate in the program and includes annual spending caps and a 10 year total cap of \$3.2 billion on health expenditures. It requires the City of New York to contribute by paying 10 percent of the cost of the health program.

The legislation reopens the Victim Compensation Fund to provide an alternative to litigation for compensation for those who are sick with World Trade Center-related health conditions. In addition, the bill would limit the overall legal liability for construction contractors and the City of New York for 9/11-related health claims to the funds available in the WTC Captive Insurance Company and coverage under liability insurance. Funding for the VCF title of the bill is capped at \$4.2 billion for the first 10 years.

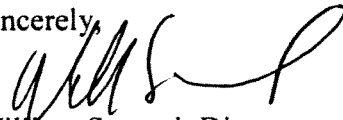
The legislation is fully paid for as required by PAYGO. It is offset completely by closing a tax loophole for foreign companies operating in the United States that are incorporated in countries that do not have a tax treaty with the United States. It would prevent foreign multinational corporations incorporated in tax haven countries from avoiding taxes on income earned in the United States. This provision has already been passed several times by the House of Representatives.

The attack on the World Trade Center was not only an attack on New York; it was an attack on our country. Responders came from virtually every state to help respond to the attack. Compelled by a moral obligation, the nation acted to compensate and care for those injured in the collapse of the World Trade Center and the attack on the Pentagon, as well as the surviving family members of those who were killed. Had Congress known that the effects of the toxic exposure from the World Trade Center collapse and clean-up would have such a lasting impact on the lives of the responders, recovery workers, and community members, accommodations would have been made at that time to meet these needs.

The AFL-CIO urges you to vote for the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act when it is brought up for a vote on suspension. Should that vote not succeed, we urge the House to move immediately to bring the bill up for a vote under a rule and pass this legislation.

It has been almost nine years since the 9/11 attacks. It is time for Congress to act, to put meaning behind their words of thanks and gratitude and to provide the heroes of 9/11 and others who are sick the health care and compensation they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Samuel", written in a cursive style.

William Samuel, Director

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT