



# LIUNA!

March 15, 2010

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN  
*General President*

ARMAND E. SABITONI  
*General Secretary-Treasurer*

*Vice Presidents:*

VERE O. HAYNES

MIKE QUEVEDO, JR.

TERRENCE M. HEALY

RAYMOND M. POCINO

JOSEPH S. MANCINELLI

ROCCO DAVIS

*Special Assistant to the  
General President*

VINCENT R. MASINO

DENNIS L. MARTIRE

MANO FREY

ROBERT E. RICHARDSON

JOSE A. MORENO

RALPH E. COLE

JOHN F. PENN

JOHN F. HEGARTY

MICHAEL S. BEARSE  
*General Counsel*

HEADQUARTERS:

905 16th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20006-1765  
202-737-8320  
Fax: 202-737-2754  
www.liuna.org

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Chairman Pallone:

On behalf of the over 4,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America who put their lives in danger to help with the recovery and reconstruction efforts and all the people in the vicinity of the World Trade Center who were made sick when the twin towers fell, 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 marked up in the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. 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.

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 weeks. Now thousands of these individuals are suffering from serious respiratory diseases and other health problems.

It is essential that the health and monitoring programs in the legislation be funded through mandatory spending. A discretionary program subject to the fluctuations of the annual appropriation process would lead to inconsistent delivery of health care services. H.R. 847 as introduced capped the number of responders and residents who could participate in the program. To ensure that costs are contained, we expect that the manager's amendment will also cap the mandatory spending for the health program at \$5.1 billion over 10 years – the cost of the health program estimated by CBO in its earlier estimate on the bill.

The attack on the World Trade Center was not only an attack on New York; it was an attack on our country. Had the Congress known that the effects of

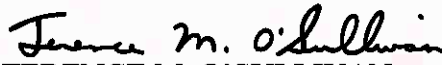
*Feel the Power*

March 15, 2010  
Page 2

the toxic exposures 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.

It is truly a disappointment that it has been almost 10 years since the attack and the US Congress has not acted to take care of these heroes who are now sick from rushing to the scene to help find survivors and then to rebuild. It is time for Congress to address the health needs of 9/11 responders and community members. The Laborers' International Union of North America urges you to vote for the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and to reject any amendments that would undermine or weaken this important legislation.

Sincerely Yours,

  
TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN  
General President

cc

CC: All members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce



# LIUNA!

March 15, 2010

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN  
*General President*

ARMAND E. SABITONI  
*General Secretary-Treasurer*

*Vice Presidents:*

VERE O. HAYNES

MIKE QUEVEDO, JR.

TERRENCE M. HEALY

RAYMOND M. POCINO

JOSEPH S. MANCINELLI

ROCCO DAVIS

*Special Assistant to the  
General President*

VINCENT R. MASINO

DENNIS L. MARTIRE

MANO FREY

ROBERT E. RICHARDSON

JOSE A. MORENO

RALPH E. COLE

JOHN F. PENN

JOHN F. HEGARTY

MICHAEL S. BEARSE  
*General Counsel*

The Honorable Nathan Deal  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Ranking Member Deal:

On behalf of the over 4,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America who put their lives in danger to help with the recovery and reconstruction efforts and all the people in the vicinity of the World Trade Center who were made sick when the twin towers fell, 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 marked up in the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. 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.

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 weeks. Now thousands of these individuals are suffering from serious respiratory diseases and other health problems.

It is essential that the health and monitoring programs in the legislation be funded through mandatory spending. A discretionary program subject to the fluctuations of the annual appropriation process would lead to inconsistent delivery of health care services. H.R. 847 as introduced capped the number of responders and residents who could participate in the program. To ensure that costs are contained, we expect that the manager's amendment will also cap the mandatory spending for the health program at \$5.1 billion over 10 years – the cost of the health program estimated by CBO in its earlier estimate on the bill.

The attack on the World Trade Center was not only an attack on New York; it was an attack on our country. Had the Congress known that the effects of

HEADQUARTERS:  
905 16th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20006-1765  
202-737-8320  
Fax: 202-737-2754  
www.liuna.org

*Feel the Power*

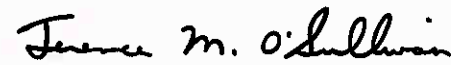


March 15, 2010  
Page 2

the toxic exposures 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.

It is truly a disappointment that it has been almost 10 years since the attack and the US Congress has not acted to take care of these heroes who are now sick from rushing to the scene to help find survivors and then to rebuild. It is time for Congress to address the health needs of 9/11 responders and community members. The Laborers' International Union of North America urges you to vote for the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and to reject any amendments that would undermine or weaken this important legislation.

Sincerely Yours,

  
TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN  
General President

cc

CC: All members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce