



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

July 23, 2010

Dear Representative:

As the summer adjournment quickly approaches, I am writing to ask you to pass H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, before the break begins.

The enactment of H.R. 847 would finally engage the full power of the federal government in working toward a resolution of the health challenges created by the attack on our nation that occurred on September 11, 2001. The destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC) and the strike on the Pentagon, as well as the crash of Flight 93, were terrorist acts directed against the United States as a whole. People from every part of the country perished at the WTC that day, while first responders and volunteers from all 50 states took part in the subsequent relief and recovery efforts. As a consequence, addressing the resulting and ongoing health effects of 9/11 is a national duty.

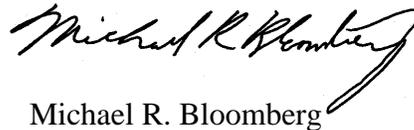
This legislation would achieve what WTC responders, area residents, and other survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks have long been seeking: sustained funding to treat those who are sick or could become sick as a result of 9/11; continued research on potential WTC health effects; and the re-opening of the Victim Compensation Fund, which ensures that those harmed as a result of 9/11 are fairly compensated without having to show that anyone other than the terrorists was at fault.

Federal funds have supported important research and treatment programs to this point, but the uncertain nature of that support has needlessly jeopardized their future, while enactment of this bill would establish them on a secure basis for the long term. By providing for the sustainability of the Centers of Excellence and the WTC Health Registry, it would establish much-needed year-in, year-out federal support for monitoring and treatment of health-related problems among eligible firefighters and police officers, community residents, schoolchildren, and owners and employees of neighborhood businesses, as well as the construction workers and volunteers who contributed to the heroic task of clearing the debris from the WTC site. Recognizing that 9/11 was an attack on America, the bill would also maintain the WTC National Responder Program, which currently helps the many men and women who came from across the country to help in WTC rescue, recovery, and clean-up operations.

To ensure that funding goes only to those whose conditions are a consequence of the events of 9/11, the legislation includes important controls and cost-containment standards. Among them, it requires the City of New York to contribute a share of the program's cost, which will give us a powerful incentive to work with federal health officials to ensure that expensive and finite medical resources are allocated responsibly to benefit only those who need them.

Less than two months from today, we will observe the ninth anniversary of these heinous attacks, and too much time has passed without action on this legislation. Please pass H.R. 847, and let's work together to ensure that those who survived the attacks, and those who risked their lives to save others, receive the health care that they deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration of this vitally important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael R. Bloomberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor