

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-107
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
S-221
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
H-204
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of Mayors, Municipal and County Leaders from across the nation, we join together to urgently request that the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) be fully funded and made permanent. This legislation is sponsored by a broad cross-section of Members of Congress from across the political spectrum and nation. As support continues to grow, we call on Congress to support the swift passage of the bipartisan H.R.1327/S.546 – Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act.

September 11, 2001 left an indelible mark on our nation. On that fateful morning, 2,977 lives were lost and thousands more were injured. Yet many more would develop illnesses from working on the scene. The heartbreaking reality is that more people may have died from 9/11-related injuries and diseases than were lost during the attacks themselves. The VCF provides compensation to individuals or surviving family members who were injured, sickened, or killed as a result of the 9/11 attacks, or the exposure to toxins as part of the recovery efforts at the Site of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the Shanksville crash site. On February 15, 2019, the VCF made the announcement that a funding shortfall would result in drastic cuts to all claims. This equates to reductions of 50 percent for all pending claims and a staggering 70 percent for future claims.

To be clear, this shortfall does not only affect individuals in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania where the attacks took place. First responders, law enforcement personnel and volunteers poured in from across the nation to render aid in the immediate aftermath of the most devastating attack on the U.S. mainland. To date, over 93,000 first responders from every state and from 434 out of 435 Congressional Districts are currently enrolled in the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program. As local leaders, we understand how critically important the VCF is for our communities because we have witnessed our residents' suffering firsthand.

In 2015, Congress authorized and fully funded the World Trade Center Health Program, providing medical monitoring and treatment for responders and survivors with 9/11-related injuries and illnesses. Congress also reauthorized the VCF, providing an additional \$4.6 billion dollars in compensation for these victims and their families, many of whom are suffering or dying from respiratory diseases and cancer. Given the full scope of need and the record number of victims applying, the funding is quickly running out. Almost \$5 billion has already been paid, while nearly 12,000 claims remain under review. Further, any responder or survivor who becomes ill after December 18, 2020 would be ineligible due to lack of funds.

As leaders, we are duty-bound to provide our heroes with the support they have rightfully earned, and to respect and cherish those who became ill after running into harm's way to save lives on one of the darkest days of our nation's history. The Never Forget the Heroes Act of 2019 affirms our responsibility as Americans to protect the victims of 9/11-related illnesses by reauthorizing the fund through 2090, and funding all current and future claims. We urge you to reauthorize the VCF by swiftly enacting H.R. 1327/S. 546. Those suffering from 9/11-related illnesses cannot wait, and we hope Congress does not wait to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York City, New York
Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin, Texas
Bryan K Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, Michigan
David J Berger, Mayor of Lima, Ohio
Ravinder Singh Bhalla, Mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey
Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, District of Columbia
Sharon W Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Roy D Buol, Mayor of Dubuque, Iowa
Latoya Cantrell, Mayor of New Orleans, Louisiana
Daniel Corona, Mayor of West Wendover, Nevada
Pauline Russo Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro, California
Jacob R Day, Mayor of Salisbury, Maryland
Michelle De La Isla, Mayor of Topeka, Kansas
James A Diozza, Mayor of Central Falls, Rhode Island
Denny Doyle, Mayor of Beaverton, Oregon
Mike Duggan, Mayor of Detroit, Michigan
Buddy Dyer, Mayor of Orlando, Florida
Jorge O Elorza, Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island
Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky
Steven M Fulop, Mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey
Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, California
Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach, California
John Giles, Mayor of Mesa, Arizona
Rex Hardin, Mayor of Pompano Beach, Florida
Andy Linko, Mayor of Brownstown Township, Michigan
Jeff Longwell, Mayor of Wichita, Kansas
Debra March, Mayor of Henderson, Nevada

Donald Margo, Mayor of El Paso, Texas
Monica Martinez, Mayor of Perris, California
Lily Mei, Mayor of Fremont, California
Carlos Méndez, Mayor of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
Mark W Mitchell, Mayor of Tempe, Arizona
Kenneth D Miyagishima, Mayor of Las Cruces, New Mexico
W John Moore, Mayor of Yachats, Oregon
Alan L Nagy, Mayor of Newark, California
Frank C Ortis, Mayor of Pembroke Pines, Florida
Toni Preckwinkle, Mayor of Cook County, Illinois
Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas, Texas
Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor of Chula Vista, California
Hillary L Schieve, Mayor of Reno, Nevada
Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor of Somerset, Maryland
Jason B Snider, Mayor of Tigard, Oregon
Levar Stoney, Mayor of Richmond, Virginia
John Tecklenburg, Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina
Alan Webber, Mayor of Santa Fe, New Mexico
Patrick L Wojahn, College Park, Maryland
Stephen J Acquario, Executive Director, New York State Association of Counties
Peter Baynes, Executive Director, New York State Conference of Mayors
Steven Bellone, County Executive, Suffolk County, New York
Ad Berwanger, Chairman, Wyoming County, New York
Philip R Church, Administrator, Oswego County, New York
Laura Curran, Nassau County Executive, New York
Ed Day, County Executive, Rockland County, New York
Jason T Garnar, County Executive, Broome County, New York
C William Gaylor, Iii, County Legislator, Nassau County, New York
Beth Hunt, Treasurer, Hamilton County, New York
Margaret M Kennedy, Board Member, Otsego County Board of Supervisors, New York
George Latimer, Westchester County Executive, New York
John F Marren, Chairman, Ontario County Board of Supervisors, New York
Daniel P. McCoy, County Executive, Albany County, New York
J Ryan McMahan II, County Executive, Onondaga County, New York
Marcus J Molinaro, County Executive, Dutchess County, New York
Charles H Nesbitt, Jr, Chief Administrative Officer, Orleans County, New York
Steven M Neuhaus, County Executive, Orange County, New York
Richard J Nicolello, Nassau County Legislature, New York
Maryellen Odell, County Executive, Carmel, New York
Matthew L Ossenfort, County Executive, Montgomery County, New York
Scott B Samuelson, County Legislator, Sullivan County, New York
Martha Sauerbrey, Chairperson, Tioga County, New York
Amy E Sayegh, Legislator, Putnam County, New York
Michael E Zurlo, Administrator, Clinton County, New York
Nassau County Village Officials Association
Adam M Acquario, Mayor of East Nassau, New York

Diane Argyle, Mayor of Valatie, New York
Nicola Armacost, Mayor of Hastings-On-Hudson, New York
Louis Badolato, Mayor of Roslyn Harbor, New York
Ian Banks, Mayor of Village of Pomona, New York
James J Basile, Mayor of Village of Fair Haven, New York
Alan C Beach, Mayor of Lynbrook, New York
Bonnie Apgar Bennett, Mayor of Village of Aurora, New York
Scott M Burto, Mayor of Village of West Carthage, New York
Leland Carpenter, Mayor of Village of Black River, New York
Randy Casale, Mayor of City of Beacon, New York
Jean Celender, Mayor of Village of Great Neck Plaza, New York
Philip F Chatterton, Mayor of Village of Adams, New York
Josh Coh, Mayor of City of Rye, New York
Robert D Conway, Mayor of Village of Voorheesville, New York
Robert C Corby, Mayor of Village of Pittsford, New York
Brendan G Coyne, Mayor of Village of Cornwall-On-Hudson, New York
Timmy J Currier, Mayor of Massena, New York
Joseph M D'Agostino, Mayor of Vernon, New York
Michael E Dalton, Mayor of Canton, New York
Richard C David, Mayor of City of Binghamton, New York
Rick Davis, Mayor of City of Tonawanda, New York
Robert E De Natale, Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Bayville, New York
Joseph M Destefano, Mayor of Middletown, New York
Barbara C Donno, Mayor of Village of Plandome Manor, New York
Paul A Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, New York
Anthony Eramo, Mayor of Long Beach, New York
Mark R Evans, Mayor of Village of Coxsackie, New York
Drew Fixell, Mayor of Tarrytown, New York
Melissa Flint-Morgan, Mayor of Tully, New York
Ralph R Foster, Mayor of Village of Painted Post, New York
Jerry Fremouw, Mayor of Village of Clyde, New York
Margot Garant, Mayor of Port Jefferson, New York
Victoria Garity, Mayor of Ossining, New York
Vincent D George, Mayor of Village of North Collins, New York
Nora Haagenon, Mayor of Baxter Estates, New York
Gary A Hadden, Mayor of Village of Victor, New York
William J Von Hagn, Mayor of Village of Bath, New York
Rordan Hart, Mayor of Village of Trumansburg, New York
Ron Harting, Mayor of Village of Windsor, New York
Rick Hauser, Mayor of Perry, New York
Adam C Hoffman, Mayor of Lake Success, New York
Jeffrey Hornburg, Mayor of Village of Silver Creek, New York
John F Howe, Mayor of Chatham, New York
Jacqueline M Izzo, Mayor of City of Rome, New York
Steven D Jeffers, Mayor of Oriskany Falls, New York
Lynne M Johnson, Mayor of Albion, New York

Nancy Kaboolian, Mayor of Village of Ardsley, New York
Meg Kelly, Mayor of Saratoga Springs, New York
Robert Kennedy, Mayor of Freeport, New York
Michael R Koblenz, Mayor of Village of East Hills, New York
Michael A Lavorata, Mayor of Village of Lindenhurst, New York
Arthur Lawson, Mayor of Village of Wilson Mayor, New York
Frank A Leak, Mayor of Village of Colonie, New York
Dr. Gregory Letica, Mayor of Village of Asharoken, New York
James A Lofranco, Mayor of Village South Blooming Grove, New York
RuthAnn Speer Loveless, Mayor of Hamilton, New York
Greg Luisi, Mayor of Tuckahoe, New York
Hal McCabe, Mayor of Village of Homer, New York
Gary R McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady, New York
Janet S McFetridge, Mayor of Village of Champlain, New York
Carolann McGrath, Mayor of Village of Hancock, New York
Robert McLoughlin, Mayor of Dobbs Ferry, New York
Damon McMullen, Mayor of Village of Northport, New York
James Miccio, Mayor of Village of Fishkill, New York
Richard B Milne, Mayor of Village Of Honeoye Falls, New York
Thomas Minutillo, Mayor of Village of Plandome, New York
Rich Mooney, Mayor of City of Rensselaer, New York
Shawn M Morse, Mayor of Cohoes, New York
Chance Mullen, Mayor of Village of Pelham, New York
Mark Muller, Mayor of Gilbertsville, New York
Michael J Murphy, Mayor of Village of Dryden, New York
Francis X Murray, Mayor of Rockville Centre, New York
Svante Myrick, Mayor of Ithaca, New York
Kevin Neary, Mayor of Village of Richmondville, New York
Mark A Netti, Mayor of Herkimer, New York
Steven T Noble, Mayor of Kingston, New York
Mike Onorato, Mayor of Stewart Manor, New York
Michael Parks, Mayor of Village of Wayland, New York
Gary Penders, Mayor of Spencerport, New York
Gina D Picinich, Mayor of Mount Kisco, New York
Ellen M Polimeni, Mayor of Canandaigua, New York
Jeffrey Pravat, Mayor of Massapequa Park, New York
Frank M Provo, Mayor of Mount Morris, New York
Michael Queenan, Mayor of Village of Woodbury, New York
Andre Rainey, Mayor of Peekskill, New York
Monica Recktenwald, Mayor of Village of Canisteo, New York
Frederick Ricci, Mayor of East Rochester, New York
Paul F Rickenbach, Mayor of Village of East Hampton, New York
Thomas M Roach, Mayor of White Plains, New York
Michelle M Roman, Mayor of Lockport, New York
Bruno F Romano, Mayor of East Rockaway, New York
Sandra Schroeder, Mayor of Village of Sag Harbor, New York

Ralph A Scordino, Mayor of Babylon, New York
Robert J Scottaline, Mayor of Village of Lake Grove, New York
Randy M Shayler, Mayor of Village of Wellsville, New York
Kathy Sheehan, Mayor of Albany, New York
Dennis M Siry, Mayor of Amityville, New York
Stephen Sommers, Mayor of Fabius, New York
Scott P Strauss, Mayor of Village of Mineola, New York
Robert T Tackman, Mayor of Village of East Syracuse, New York
Samuel Teresi, Mayor of Jamestown, New York
James J Thompson, Mayor of Wurtsboro, New York
Ellen R Tillapaugh, Mayor of Village of Cooperstown, New York
Reinhold J Tischler, Mayor of Village of Potsdam, New York
Michael VandeVelde, Mayor of Westfield, New York
Steven A Vescio, Mayor of Village of Briarcliff Manor, New York
Michael J Villa, Mayor of Amsterdam, New York
Richard Merritt Wagar, Mayor of Village of Riverside, New York
Lorraine Walsh, Mayor of Larchmont, New York
Steven Weinberg, Mayor of Village of Thomaston, New York
Anne Welch, Mayor of Village of Lewiston, New York
Paul D Whorrall, Mayor of Village of Manlius, New York
Robert Williams, Mayor of Village of Elmsford, New York
Ronald E Wilson, Mayor of Village of Port Byron, New York
Russell Wood, Mayor of Village of Bloomingburg, New York
Judith A Woodshaw, Mayor of Stillwater, New York
Robert M Zack, Mayor of Village of Laurens, New York

CC: The Honorable Jerrold Nadler; Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Doug Collins; Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee