



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3 November 2010

The Honorable Harry M. Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 847, the “James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.” This legislation, which you both know is very important to our members, passed the House in September and is now pending before the Senate.

In less than a year, our nation will mark the 10th anniversary of the most devastating attacks on U.S. citizens on our native soil. This heinous act of terror caused the death of more than 3,000 people—including more than seventy law enforcement officers, making it the deadliest day for law enforcement in the entire history of the Republic. The response to the attacks of 9/11 demonstrated the enormous dedication of our nation’s brave men and women, as well as the resiliency of the American people who reached out to help one another on that terrible day.

But make no mistake, this was not just an attack on the on the Twin Towers or on the Pentagon, but on the United States as a whole. Americans from across the country responded in our hour of need, as evidenced by the thousands of public safety officers, emergency responders, volunteers, and others who traveled to New York City to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

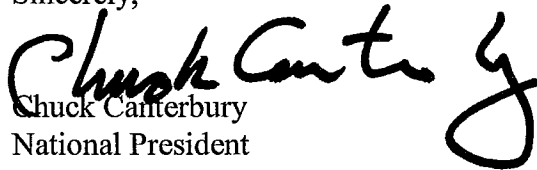
Now those of us who responded to the attacks face an equally deadly threat—the long-term health effects that have developed as a result of exposure to the deadly mix of toxins released from the collapse of the World Trade Center. Upper and lower respiratory conditions, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are just some of the medical issues which our members and others are now confronting. New York City Police Detective James Zadroga, in whose memory this legislation was named, was the first public safety officer to have his death directly attributed to his work at Ground Zero, and he will not be the last. Already the World Trade Center Health Registry includes the names of more than 70,000 people from every State in the nation, providing a stark reminder to everyone in law enforcement and public safety of the unseen dangers they face when responding to a critical incident.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

For the past several years, Congress has appropriated funds to provide care and treatment to those whose work at Ground Zero damaged their health. It is now time for a nationally coordinated effort to address the medical monitoring and treatment needs of the public safety and other responders who were sickened during their service at Ground Zero. This bill will ensure consistent funding for these men and women and provide for continued research into the diagnosis and treatment of 9/11 health-related conditions. But perhaps most importantly, this legislation signifies the Federal government's commitment to care for those who sacrificed so much to protect and serve our nation in the aftermath of one of its darkest days.

On behalf of the more than 328,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I respectfully request that both caucuses work together to bring this legislation to a vote in the waning days of this Congress. Thank you both in advance for your attention to this request. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco if I can be of any additional assistance on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

cc: The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Member, United States Senate
Charlie Caputo, President, New York State Lodge