



July 2008

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vito Fossella  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Maloney, Fossella & Nadler:

We, the undersigned organizations representing more than 40,000 active and retired law enforcement officers of the New York City Police Department, are writing to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 3543, the “James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.”

Nearly seven years ago, the United States suffered the most devastating terrorist attack in our nation’s history on September 11, 2001. On that one day alone, this heinous and premeditated act claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 of our fellow citizens—including more than 70 of our fellow law enforcement officers. September 11<sup>th</sup> was not just an assault on New York City or Washington, D.C., but on our nation as a whole. As you are aware Americans from across the nation responded in our hour of need, as evidenced by the thousands of first responders, volunteers, and others who traveled to New York City to assist us in the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

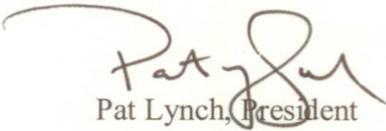
Now, those of us who responded to the attacks face an equally deadly threat: the long-term health effects that have developed as a result of exposure to a cocktail of deadly toxins released from the collapse of the World Trade Center. Upper and lower respiratory conditions, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are just some of the medical issues which our members are now confronting. The death of Detective James Zadroga in January 2006—the first 9/11 responder to have his death directly attributed to his work at Ground Zero—was a stark reminder of the health effects that we, and potentially hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans, will face in the years ahead. Indeed, today the World Trade Center Health Registry alone includes the names of more than 70,000 people from every State in the nation.

While we are grateful for the funding that Congress has appropriated over the years to care for those who are suffering as a result of their service at Ground Zero, it is time for a coordinated and unified effort to address the medical monitoring and treatment needs of 9/11 responders. The legislation which you have introduced will achieve this goal, by creating a national program to medically monitor and treat those who are sick. It will ensure consistent funding for this important effort, and provide for

the continuation of 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.

Our organizations are proud to support your longstanding efforts to pass this critically important legislation, and we are grateful for your strong leadership on behalf of our nation's first responders. We stand ready to work with you, and the more than 100 of your colleagues who have cosponsored H.R. 3543, to see this legislation enacted into law.

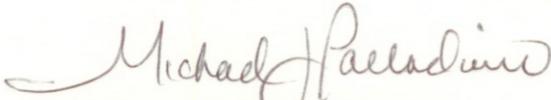
Sincerely,



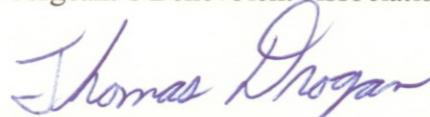
Pat Lynch, President  
Patrolmen's Benevolent Association



Ed Mullins, President  
Sergeant's Benevolent Association



Michael J. Palladino, President  
Detective's Endowment Association



Thomas Drogan, President  
Lieutenant's Benevolent Association



Roy T. Richter, President  
Captain's Endowment Association