



STATE OF NEW YORK

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Representative Boehner, and Senators Reid and McConnell:

I write to express my strong support for the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2008. I recently signed legislation that would expand health benefits to the brave men and women who responded to the terrorist attacks. This legislation was developed after a panel of experts found the State's original benefits legislation was insufficient in covering all those who were affected. I commend you for your support of 9/11 victims and ask for your continued support of efforts to address the long-term health care needs of World Trade Center victims.

As Governor, I have made access to affordable and effective health care for every New Yorker a top priority. However, ensuring that those directly affected by the terrorist attack get the health care they deserve is not only a New York priority, but also a national priority. The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2008 accomplishes that goal, by ensuring that everyone exposed to the Ground Zero toxins will be medically monitored, and that those who are sick as a result of the exposure have access to treatment. I hope that you will work with the New York delegation, especially Reps. Maloney, King, Nadler, and Fossella and Senators Schumer and Clinton, to get this legislation passed through Congress and signed by the President. I thank you for your efforts and look forward to working with you on this very important initiative.

Sincerely,

David A. Paterson

c: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
The Honorable Peter King
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Vito Fossella