

**American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

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**District Council 37**

**LILLIAN ROBERTS**

Executive Director

November 13, 2007

**VERONICA MONTGOMERY-COSTA**

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**CLIFFORD KOPPELMAN**

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**MAF MISBAH UDDIN**

Treasurer

Honorable Carolyn Maloney

United States Congress

1651 Third Avenue – Suite 311

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Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

On behalf of the 121,000 members of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to thank you for cosponsoring the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 3543).

As the largest municipal labor union in New York City and the only union which is housed in "Ground Zero Frozen Zone", we are intimately concerned about the lives of our members, other office workers and residents of our community. Following the 9/11 attack, thousands of District Council 37 members were involved in the extraordinary rescue, recovery and cleanup operations, and the restoration of utilities and other vital services at and around Ground Zero. Sadly, many of our members have become ill due to their exposure to toxic air and other physical and mental health hazards.

H.R. 3543 is a comprehensive response to the needs of our members. Importantly, the legislation builds on the existing medical programs at the Fire Department of New York, the Mt. Sinai Consortium, and the WTC Environmental Health Center at Bellevue Hospital. By building on these programs, H.R. 3543 ensures that District Council 37 members will have access to competent health care services. In addition, H.R.3543 addresses the critical need to monitor the health of these workers so that emerging illnesses are recognized quickly and protocols developed for diagnosis and treatment. Early treatment of new illnesses and complications are vital to improving the health outcomes of the workers.

H.R. 3543 also takes a sensible approach to compensating victims who can no longer work due to their 9/11-related illnesses. Reopening the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund would provide an efficient process for compensating workers for their losses.

**Associate Director**

Oliver Gray

**Retirees Association**

Stuart Leibowitz

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District Council 37 fully supports H.R. 3543 and we look forward to working with you to advance this vital legislation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lillian Roberts".

Lillian Roberts  
Executive Director  
District Council 37, AFSCME

Copy: Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Senator Charles Schumer