# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2005

The Honorable Joshua B. Bolten
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Bolten,

We are writing regarding the Office of Management and Budget's recent comment surrounding the aid package for New York in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. This week several members of your staff have been quoted in various newspaper articles about the President's budget proposal to take back $125 million in 9/11 aid meant for sick 9/11 responders through the workers compensation program. Their statements have consistently argued that the aid package to New York after 9/11 continues to exceed the President's pledge of $20 billion. These statements are being made despite the fact OMB has never provided a full accounting of funds New York received after 9/11. We would, once again, ask OMB to provide us with a full accounting of funds that New York has received since 9/11. In this accounting, please include the amount that has been obligated and spent.

For your reference, below please find what has been a running total of funding reductions to New York since the President's Rose Garden announcement of $21.4 billion in aid to New York on March 7, 2002. As you will remember, at the announcement the President stated "I made a pledge...that our government would commit at least $20 billion to help rebuild New York and to take care of the tragedy that befell that magnificent city...and, as a matter of fact, as of right now, there's an over $20 billion commitment."

**Pledge from the President**

| | |
|---|---|
| $21.4 billion | Promised March 7, 2002 |

**Since the announcement the amount of the aid package has been reduced**

| **Amount Lost** | **Reason** |
|---|---|
| $500 million | Wrong Joint Taxation Committee estimate was used for tax benefits |
| $2 billion | Tax benefits were overvalued |
| $268 million | IRS decides to tax certain grants to businesses and individuals |
| $120 million | FY06 budget proposes rescission of workers' compensation funding |
| $5 million | FY06 budget proposes rescission of worker training funding |

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**Total Lost**

$2.893 billion

**Revised 9/11 Disaster Relief Total**

$18.507 billion

As you can see, if these figures are correct, the President's promise to provide at least $20 billion to New York after 9/11 has not been kept. Please know that this is important because a number of unmet needs remain. One of the most pressing needs is the health of 9/11 responders as well as the health of area residents and workers. We have long argued that the federal response to 9/11 health needs has so far been inadequate and has provided valuable but insufficient funds for the medical screening and monitoring of 9/11 responders.

At the conclusion of the first round of federally-funded medical screenings, several thousand responders eligible for the examinations were left in need. Moreover, approximately 50% of medically screened responders (6,000) are already estimated to warrant physical and/or mental health treatment, and/or further diagnostic testing. Despite finding thousands still sick as a direct result of 9/11, no federal funding can be used for treatment. The only funding for treatment has come from private, charitable sources. As the Director of Health Care-Public Health Issues for the GAO, said, at a September 2004 congressional hearing "There is something ethically wrong when you screen for a disease, find it, and then don't treat it, and that is what we are finding in this case [of the 9/11 response]." No funding for monitoring or treatment has been provided for area residents or workers.

Again, we would appreciate an accounting from OMB as to how the President plans to fulfill his promise of providing at least $20 billion in aid to New York, and we would like to know what the President's plans are to help the heroes of 9/11 who are now sick and need our help.

Sincerely,

**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**
**Member of Congress**

**JERROLD NADLER**
**Member of Congress**

**NITA M. LOWEY**
**Member of Congress**

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ELIOT L. ENGEL
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