

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 21, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush;

As you prepare your fiscal year 2008 budget we request you include funding to medically monitor and treat everyone who is sick as a direct result of their exposure to the toxins of Ground Zero. We also request you direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to for such a program.

As a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent collapse of towers one, two and seven and release of pulverized materials, thousands of first responders, volunteers, area residents, workers and school children are sick.

In the years since the attacks, the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program has documented 70 percent of screened 9/11 responders have experienced respiratory problems following the attacks and 60 percent continue to experience respiratory problems. The New York City Fire Department has documented that, on average, a firefighter who responded to the World Trade Center has experienced a loss of 12 years of lung capacity. Both of these programs have documented extensive mental health effects on rescue and recovery workers.

We are extremely grateful for the appointment of Dr. Howard as 9-11 Health Coordinator and the work he has done to this point. We are also greatly appreciative of Secretary Leavitt's commitment to a 9-11 Task Force to compliment Dr. Howard's work. However, despite the well documented medical problems of various individuals exposed to Ground Zero toxins, there is still no official plan to medically monitor and treat all individuals suffering from 9-11 related illnesses. While the \$52 million in funding that has recently been appropriated for treatment is a good start, it insufficient for the long-term needs of 9/11 responders. It also can't be used to monitor or treat area residents, workers and school children.

We greatly appreciate Secretary Leavitt's recognition that more needs to be done and that the current funding can only be viewed as a "down payment". Given the severity of the situation, we request your fiscal year 2008 budget include funding to build upon current federal funding being sent to monitor and treat first responders suffering from illnesses borne from their efforts on 9-11. We also request your direct the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan for full medical monitoring and treatment of everyone who has fallen ill due to their exposure to the toxins of Ground Zero.

Sincerely,

Caryn B. Mabry

Caryn McCantley

Brin Hogg

Star Israel

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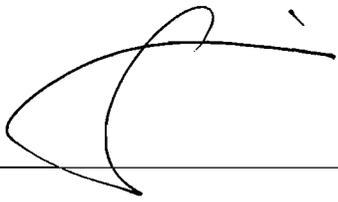
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Elvis Smith



~~Gregory W. White~~

Michael R. McWhorter