

H.R.1638, The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act

Introduced by Reps. Carolyn B. Maloney and Vito Fossella

Named after New York Police Detective and 9/11 responder James Zadroga, whose death was among the first attributed to the toxins of Ground Zero, this bill continues, expands, and improves the federal government's response to the health effects of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 by providing for long-term medical monitoring, treatment, compensation, research and coordination.

Medical Monitoring and Treatment

- Continues the current medical monitoring and treatment for responders, rescue, recovery and clean up workers at the same level of medical monitoring and treatment they receive now.
- Expands the current medical monitoring program to include all other people exposed to the toxins of 9/11, including area residents, office workers and students.
- Once a participant is enrolled in the monitoring program, medically necessary treatment would be provided for illness or injury found to be related to 9/11.
- If an individual is eligible for treatment, they receive the treatment without any cost sharing. This includes treatment for mental health and prescription drugs.
- Requires the creation of a nationwide network of health care providers in order to ensure reasonable access to medical monitoring and treatment to people who live outside the New York City area.
- Provides grants to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide mental health services to individuals who live in New York City.

Compensation

- Reopens September 11th Victims Compensation Fund for individuals who did not file before or became ill after the original December 22, 2003 deadline.
- Allows for adjustment of previous awards if the Special Master of the fund determines the medical conditions of the claimant warrants an adjustment.
- Amends eligibility rules so that responders to the 9/11 attacks who arrived later than the first 96 hours could be eligible if they experienced illness or injury from their work at the site.

Research

- Directs to Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct or support research on the diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental health conditions that may be related to the September 11, terrorist attacks and report on the findings of this research.
- Continues on-going data collection by the World Trade Center Health Registry.

Coordination

- Establishes the 9/11 Health Emergency Coordinating Council under the direction of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- The Council is responsible for the discussing, examining, and formulating recommendations for the adequacy and coordination of care and compensation for victims and federal tracking of monitoring and treatment.
- The Council will meet at least 4 times per year and submit a yearly report to the Congress on their recommendations.

If you have questions, please contact Anna Cielinski in Congresswoman Maloney's office at (202) 225-7944 or anna.cielinski@mail.house.gov.