

Extending the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund

The IAFF supports extending the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and encourages members of Congress to co-sponsor the **Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act**.

BACKGROUND

On January 2, 2011, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which provides medical monitoring, treatment and compensation to individuals sick or injured from the 9/11 attacks, was signed into law. In 2015, Congress extended the health program through 2090, but only extended the Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), which provides compensation to those sick or injured as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11 or the rescue and recovery efforts that took place subsequently, through 2020. Now, in addition to the looming sunset date in 2020, the VCF is on track to run out of funding as soon as six months from now.

Claims to the VCF continue to grow as the number of individuals diagnosed with 9/11-related illnesses and cancers from their exposure to toxins at Ground Zero grows every

day. For months following the 9/11 attacks, fire fighters and other responders toiled at Ground Zero participating in the rescue and recovery efforts, exposing themselves to a toxic cocktail of chemicals and particulates, which has led to injury and illness. Others participated in the efforts at the Pentagon or the Shanksville crash site. Today, over 42,000 people who are in the World Trade Center Health Program are suffering from at least one certified 9/11 condition, while a large percentage have multiple conditions.

Absent swift Congressional action, 9/11 responders will soon face cuts to compensation claims and the entire program will abruptly end in December of 2020. Although the VCF is still clearly necessary, it will expire in 2020 without further action by Congress.

LEGISLATION

House: [H.R. 1327, Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act](#)

Sponsors: Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY); Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY); Representative Peter King (R-NY)

Senate: [S. 546, Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act](#)

Sponsors: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY); Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Summary: The Never Forget the Heroes Act would extend and fund the Victim Compensation Fund, which provides compensation to those sick or injured as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11 or the rescue and recovery efforts that took place subsequently, through 2090, essentially making the program permanent.