

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION EXTENDING THE SEPTEMBER 11th VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND ACT

Offered by:

International Association of Fire Fighters
National Fire Protection Association

WHEREAS, fire fighters and others who responded to the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 and in the following months selflessly put their lives on the line to help America recover from a national disaster, and

WHEREAS, such responders were exposed to a toxic cocktail of chemicals and particulates which has led to injury and illness, including chronic diseases like asthma, obstructive pulmonary disease and cancer, and

WHEREAS, 9/11 illnesses have caused major financial strains on those exposed, many of whom are no longer able to work and suffer diminished quality of life, and

WHEREAS, the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) was established by Congress to compensate individuals for such losses made in service to their nation, and

WHEREAS, the VCF has received over 40,000 eligibility claims and made nearly 20,000 determinations for injured or ill responders and survivors or their families, and

WHEREAS, fire fighters and other public safety officers are particularly affected, as more than 2000 active-duty fire department personnel have retired due to disabling 9/11 injuries, and over 182 New York City Fire Department personnel have died of their 9/11 injuries, and

WHEREAS, as latent diseases continue to manifest in 9/11 responders, the number of new claims is expected to grow, and

WHEREAS, the VCF Special Master has determined that the VCF lacks sufficient funding to pay all pending and projected claims under current policies and procedures, and

WHEREAS, due to insufficient funding, claims have been cut by fifty to seventy percent, and

WHEREAS, the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund will expire in December, 2020, and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate entitled the Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund Act that would extend and fund the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund through 2090, essentially making the program permanent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports the Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act and encourages Members of Congress to support the Act.

Unanimously Approved on April 26, 2019.