

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO FUND AND IMPROVE THE WTC HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM

Offered by:
International Association of Fire Fighters

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 combination of chemicals and particulates which has led to injury and illness, including chronic diseases like asthma, obstructive pulmonary disease and cancer, and

WHEREAS, fire fighters and other public safety officers are particularly affected, as more than 2,000 active-duty fire department personnel have retired due to disabling 9/11 injuries, and more than 200 New York City Fire Department personnel have died from 9/11-related cancer and other diseases, and

WHEREAS, the World Trade Center Health Program (WTC Health Program) was established within the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention to provide cancer screenings and medical care to first responders and others who were in close proximity to Ground Zero, and

WHEREAS, the WTC Health Program currently has nearly 84,000 first responders and 35,000 survivors enrolled in the program, and

WHEREAS, enrollees in the WTC Health Program live in all 50 states and 434 out of 435 House districts

WHEREAS, as latent diseases continue to manifest in 9/11 responders and the WTC Health Program gained more than 2,900 new enrollees in the first half of 2022 alone

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-113) which reauthorized the WTC Health Program through 2090, and

WHEREAS, the WTC Health Program has gained substantially more enrollees than was anticipated in 2016 when the reauthorization occurred, and

WHEREAS, WTC Health Program now faces a funding shortfall of \$3 billion which will force the program to stop enrolling new 9/11 first responders and survivors by October 1, 2024, and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate entitled the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act that would mitigate this funding shortfall for the WTC Health Program and allow licensed medical professionals other than physicians to certify enrollees' 9/11-related health conditions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act and encourages Members of Congress to support the Act.