Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association • National Association of Police Organizations • National Sheriffs' Association • National Treasury Employees Union • National Troopers Coalition • Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (NYPD) • Detectives' Endowment Association (NYPD) • Sergeants Benevolent Association (NYPD) • Lieutenants Benevolent Association (NYPD) • Captains Endowment Association (NYPD) • Port Authority Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

October 1, 2015

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Trent Franks
Chairman,
Subcommittee on the Constitution
and Civil Justice
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Steve Cohen
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on the Constitution
and Civil Justice
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing more than 400,000 federal, state and local law enforcement officers, we respectfully request the Committee move expeditiously to consider H.R. 1786, the "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act."

As we do every year on September 11th, our nation recently paused to remember the lives lost in the most heinous terrorist attack in American history. Unlike the commemoration of other national tragedies, however, the casualty list of the 9/11 attacks and the number of individuals we pause to honor continues to grow. To date, the number of law enforcement officers who have died of a 9/11-related health condition has more than surpassed the 72 who fell on 9/11 itself. And there are thousands more police officers, firefighters, and other first responders who left their health on "The Pile" and suffer daily with the lingering effects of their service on 9/11 and during the rescue and recovery efforts in the weeks that followed. Over the past five years the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) have aided these first responders and their families, operating as Congress intended and as the heroes of 9/11 deserve. But there is still more to be done and time is running short to reauthorize these important programs before the current authorization expires. We cannot wait much longer.

Six years ago, each of you participated in the process which eventually led to the Judiciary Committee's passage of the original Zadroga Act and the reopening of the VCF. There are far fewer issues presented by this current reauthorization bill than those you helped address in the 111^{th} Congress. And there are no issues with the reauthorization bill that cannot and should not be quickly resolved. We therefore again urge the Committee to take up and advance H.R. 1786 as soon as possible. We stand ready to work with you to do just that.

Sincerely,

Job Adler, President Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

William Johnson, Executive Director National Association of Police Organizations

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Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director National Sheriffs' Association

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Andrew Matthews, Chairman National Troopers Coalition

Michael Palladino, President, Detectives' Endowment Association, NYPD

Louis Turco, President

Lieutenants Benevolent Association, NYPD

National Treasury Employees Union

Anthony M. Reardon, National President

Patrick J. Lynch, President

Ed Mullins

Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, NYPD

Ed Mullins, President

Sergeants Benevolent Association, NYPD

Roy Richter, President

Captains Endowment Association, NYPD

Paul Nunziato, President

Port Authority Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

CC: Members, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives