October 1, 2015

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman,
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member,
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 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 111th 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,

Jon Adler, President
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

William Johnson, Executive Director
National Association of Police Organizations
Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director  
National Sheriffs’ Association

Anthony M. Reardon, National President  
National Treasury Employees Union

Andrew Matthews, Chairman  
National Troopers Coalition

Patrick J. Lynch, President  
Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, NYPD

Michael Palladino, President, Detectives’ Endowment Association, NYPD

Ed Mullins, President  
Sergeants Benevolent Association, NYPD

Louis Turco, President  
Lieutenants 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