

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Committee on
Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member, Committee on
Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman, Committee on Environment
& Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member, Committee on
Environment & Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sirs & Madam:

As you begin Conference Committee negotiations on H.R. 22, we are writing on behalf of the more than 400,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers we represent to request the inclusion in the final conference report of language to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Six years ago, Congress came together in a bipartisan fashion to pass the original Zadroga Act. It did so in recognition of the needs of tens of thousands of first responders who were sick or had died as a result of their service during the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Today, 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. The World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) established by the Zadroga Act 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 critical programs before their final expiration next year. It is for these reasons and many others that the standalone "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act" is currently supported by nearly 250 Members of the House and 65 Senators.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we again request that the Conference Committee include in the conference report on H.R.22 language to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to do just that.

Sincerely,

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
National Association of Police Organizations
National Sheriffs' Association
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.

CC: Members of the Conference Committee on H.R. 22