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July 23, 2019

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

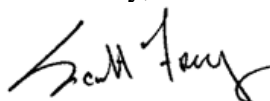
On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), including thousands of workers and volunteers who assisted in the 9/11 rescue and cleanup operations, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1327, the "Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act," which passed the House on July 12, 2019.

Eighteen years after the September 11 attacks, the day and its aftermath still haunt us. We remember those who were lost that day, as well as those first responders who courageously came to Ground Zero and stayed for days, weeks and months to look for survivors and assist with cleanup and recovery. Many of them were volunteers from across the country. These brave public servants inhaled a toxic cocktail of caustic chemicals, pulverized drywall, and powdered cement while working at the scene as their heroic actions put them at risk of lifelong health consequences.

In 2011 and again in 2015, the Congress expanded and replenished the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund for these workers and survivors who served their country at a time of great need. Since being reopened in 2011, the Fund has received nearly 40,000 claims and made nearly 25,000 determinations for injured or killed responders and survivors, or their families. Unless Congress acts, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) that helps 9/11 survivors and responders will run out of funds and its authorization will expire, before many have been able to apply.

We urge you to support H.R. 1327, the "Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act."

Sincerely,



Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs

SF/KUS:cg

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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