

September 10, 2024

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to support the bipartisan 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act of 2024 (S. 4724). Without congressional action, the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) fund that provides medical treatment and monitoring to over 132,000 first responders and survivors, from every state, will have a budget shortfall starting in 2027.

Tens of thousands of emergency workers, construction workers and brave public service workers of all kinds, including [AFSCME](#) members, rushed to the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville crash site to search for survivors, recover the dead and begin the long process of rebuilding in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Those months of dedicated work at Ground Zero going through the wreckage, often without proper protective equipment, exposed these workers to a dangerous mix of toxic dust, debris and caustic fumes. As a result, many of these individuals have suffered from injuries and illnesses related to exposure.

Congress must swiftly pass the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act because:

- Even though Congress extended the program through 2090, the steep rise in medical costs and in cancer rates over the past years have increased costs beyond what was projected in the 2015 reauthorization.
- 9/11 responders and survivors would lose the health monitoring and treatments they have relied upon and, in the coming years, responders and survivors who will be newly diagnosed with 9/11-associated cancers will be denied the medical treatment and health monitoring they need.
- The bill addresses the projected shortfall both in the short-term and for years to come, creating a new formula to calculate the amount of federal funding for FY 2035 through FY 2090.

As a nation we have pledged to never forget those who died on that tragic day. We ask you to stand with those who showed selfless heroism in the rescue and recovery efforts by ensuring the WTCHP has the funds it needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin S. Jayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Edwin" being the most prominent.

Edwin S. Jayne
Director of Federal Government Affairs

ESJ/LB:ei