

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “Examining H.R. 1786, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation
Reauthorization Act”
June 11, 2015

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today’s Health Subcommittee hearing will examine the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program that was created in the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act enacted in 2011.

The Act allocated \$4.2 billion to create the Health Program, which provides monitoring, testing, and treatment for people who worked in response and recovery operations as well as for other survivors of the 9/11 attacks. The authorization of the Health Program ends on September 30, 2015. Another part of the law, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, is under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. It will continue to accept applications until October 3, 2016, over a year after the Health Program authorization ends.

The WTC Health Program funds networks of specialized medical programs. These programs are designed to monitor and treat those w/ 9/11 related conditions.

- For responders – The World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program;
- For survivors – NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation WTC Environmental Health Center;
- For NYFD Personnel – The Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Responder Health Program;
- The National Program – The WTC Health Program has a nationwide network of clinics with providers across the country for responders and survivors who live outside the New York City metropolitan area.

These programs provide free medical services by health care professionals who specialize in 9/11-related conditions.

Our colleagues, Reps. Carolyn Maloney (NY), Peter King (NY) and Jerrold Nadler (NY), have jointly introduced legislation, H.R. 1786 - the “James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act” - which reauthorizes the Act. This legislation has begun an important conversation that will lead to a timely and fully offset reauthorization of the Health Program.

Today’s hearing will allow us to learn more about how the program is working and whether changes are needed. We will hear from the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health who is responsible for administering the program, as well as from the medical director of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and two first responders who are enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Program.

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