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May 19, 2025

Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate SD-511
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Mike Johnson
House Speaker
H-232, The Capital
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General and members of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), write to express our profound concern regarding the urgent health care crisis facing thousands of first responders, survivors, and families impacted by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program—established to provide critical medical care and monitoring for those affected by the September 11 attacks—is now facing an impending and devastating budget shortfall. We respectfully urge immediate congressional action to address the looming shortfall and to secure the Program’s long-term sustainability.

For nearly fifteen years, the WTC Health Program has been an essential resource for more than 135,000 Americans exposed to toxic dust and debris following the collapse of the Twin Towers. These include firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMTs, construction workers, volunteers, and community members who were present in the aftermath. Many of them are now suffering from chronic respiratory illnesses, cancers, mental health conditions, and other serious ailments directly linked to their exposure. They live in all 50 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico. This is an issue that impacts all of us.

The Program was established with strong bipartisan support through the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, and

reauthorized in both 2015 and 2019 with overwhelming congressional backing. This legislation honored the profound sacrifices made by 9/11 responders and ensured they received the medical care and monitoring they earned through their bravery and service. Following reauthorization, the Program is slated to run until 2090, but that far-off date is meaningless if the program is not funded.

Approximately 400,000 people were exposed to the toxic air around Ground Zero. While one-third of them have already enrolled in the Program, the tragic fact is that, even two-plus decades later, first responders and survivors are still getting sick at an alarming rate. Increased demand for services and treatment means that current funding levels are simply not enough for this country to keep our commitment to these heroes.

Without further congressional intervention, the WTC Health Program is projected to experience a significant funding shortfall as early as FY 2026. The consequences of inaction would be catastrophic. Thousands of responders and survivors may be denied access to specialized care, waitlists could grow, and medical providers could be forced to cut back essential services. This shortfall would also threaten the Program's capacity to accept new enrollees—many of whom have only recently begun to experience delayed symptoms or received a diagnosis of a 9/11-related illness.

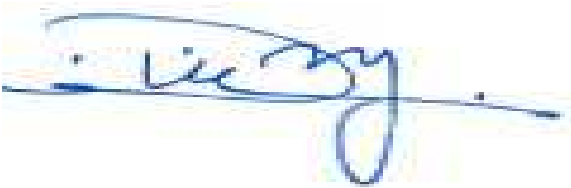
The men and women who rushed toward danger when our nation was under attack did so without hesitation. They served selflessly to protect others, often at the cost of their lives or their long-term health and well-being. Many have since lost their lives to 9/11-related illnesses. Others continue to battle complex, debilitating conditions that require ongoing treatment and support. They have kept their promise to us. We must keep ours to them.

We strongly urge Congress to enact legislation that will fully address the WTC Health Program's funding shortfall and provide the financial stability necessary to serve current and future enrollees. Doing so is not just a matter of fiscal responsibility—it is a moral obligation. This country has long recognized the need to care for those who protect it, and we believe there remains strong bipartisan will to once again come together in support of those who sacrificed their health and safety in our time of need.

This is not a partisan issue—it is an American one. The victims, responders, and survivors of 9/11 come from every state in the union. Their courage represents the very best of America, and they deserve nothing less than our full and continued support.

Thank you for your attention in this critical and urgent matter. We stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to ensure the health and dignity of our nation's 9/11 heroes.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of William Tong, featuring a stylized 'W' and 'T'.

William Tong
Connecticut Attorney General

A blue ink signature of John M. Formella, written in a cursive style.

John M. Formella
New Hampshire Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Letitia James, written in a cursive style.

Letitia James
New York Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Jonathan Skrmetti, written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Skrmetti
Tennessee Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde, written in a cursive style.

Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde
American Samoa Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Rob Bonta, written in a cursive style.

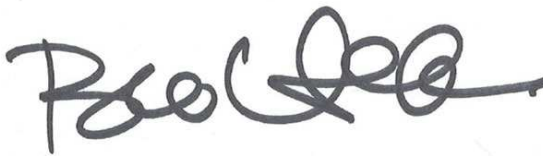
Rob Bonta
California Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Phil Weiser, written in a cursive style.

Phil Weiser
Colorado Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Kathleen Jennings, written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Jennings
Delaware Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Brian Schwalb, written in a cursive style.

Brian Schwalb
District of Columbia Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Anne E. Lopez, written in a cursive style.

Anne E. Lopez
Hawaii Attorney General

Kwame Raoul
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Brenna Bird
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Aaron M. Frey
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Andrea Joy Campbell
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North Carolina Attorney General



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North Dakota Attorney General



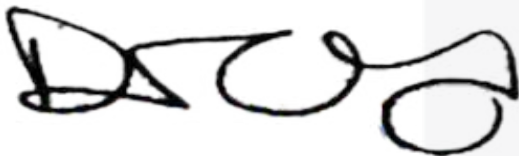
Edward Manibusan
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General



Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General



Gentner Drummond
Oklahoma Attorney General



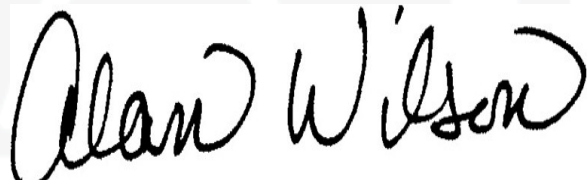
Dan Rayfield
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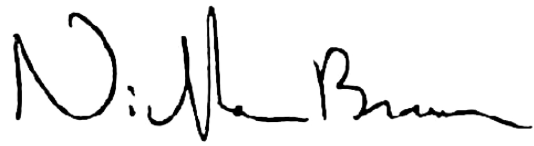
Derek Brown
Utah Attorney General



Charity Clark
Vermont Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Jason S. Miyares, written in a cursive style.

Jason S. Miyares
Virginia Attorney General

A black ink signature of Nick Brown, written in a cursive style.

Nick Brown
Washington Attorney General

A black ink signature of John B. McCuskey, written in a cursive style.

John "JB" McCuskey
West Virginia Attorney General

A black ink signature of Joshua L. Kaul, written in a cursive style.

Joshua L. Kaul
Wisconsin Attorney General

A blue ink signature of Bridget Hill, written in a cursive style.

Bridget Hill
Wyoming Attorney General

