

Breaking News Affecting 9/11 Responders: World Trade Center Health Program Funding Secured

After more than three years of advocacy, Congress has finally passed a bill that assures long-term funding for the World Trade Center Health Program. This funding ensures continued access to free monitoring, treatment, and cancer screenings for years to come. Had this funding not been secured, the Health Program would not have been able to accept new patients after 2027.

Full funding means stability. It means certainty. And most importantly, it means that those whose health has been impacted in the aftermath of September 11th will not be abandoned.

Securing support from members of Congress outside of the New York area was a challenge. Justice did not come easily. It is the result of years of relentless advocacy by the 9/11 community, responders, survivors, families, doctors, union leaders, and advocates; all who refused to accept broken promises or temporary solutions.

Our firm is proud to have stood alongside you in this fight. Our partners and staff proudly made dozens of trips to Washington in 2025 to make sure that the voices of both responders and civilians in the 9/11 community were heard loud and clear. We reminded legislators of their promise to “never forget.” Fortunately, this time they listened!



Managing Partner Michael Barasch, John Feal of the FealGood Foundation, and 9/11 responder Mike O’Connell travel to Washington, DC., to support the permanent funding of the WTC Health Program

As we approach the 25th remembrance of September 11, 2001, this news carries special meaning. While this is a major milestone, our work is not finished. We must now press Secretary Kennedy of the U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services to end the NIOSH hiring freeze. The WTC Health Program must be fully staffed so that new patients don’t have to wait 6 months for an appointment to have their illnesses certified. And, we will implore Mr. Kennedy to restore research funding so that heart and autoimmune diseases can finally be covered.

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Benefits available for 9/11 responders, volunteers, office workers, retirees, residents, students and teachers.

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What the City Knew, and What It Didn't Tell Us

A newly uncovered memo confirms what the 9/11 community has long suspected: city officials were aware of the dangers of Ground Zero toxins while publicly assuring residents, workers, and first responders that the air in Lower Manhattan was safe to breathe.

Dated October 2001, the memo from the City's Law Department warned senior officials that tens of thousands of lawsuits could result from people returning to the area too soon. The City's Law Department shamefully focused on the City's potential legal liability rather than the public's health. People trusted the guidance they were given, returned to their homes and jobs, and many are now living with life-threatening illnesses, including 69 different cancers and chronic respiratory diseases.

The document surfaced only after pro bono attorneys representing 9/11 victims located it in a journalist's archived files, not through any voluntary disclosure by the City. Only after sustained pressure did the city acknowledge that it possessed dozens of additional boxes of health-related documents it had long claimed did not exist, raising serious concerns about the completeness of past disclosures.

This discovery raises urgent and unavoidable questions: How many documents were withheld? Who knew about the risks and who made the decision not to disclose them? Why did it take decades and outside pressure for any of this information to come to light? We continue to push for answers.

Twenty Years Later: Honoring James Zadroga's Legacy

This year marks a solemn anniversary for the 9/11 community. Twenty years ago, NYPD Detective James Zadroga passed away at 34 from pulmonary fibrosis caused by Ground Zero toxins. His autopsy provided the proof linking numerous illnesses—and later 69 cancers—to exposure at Ground Zero, directly challenging the EPA's claim that the air was "safe to breathe."

With that evidence, we secured recognition of Jimmy's death as line-of-duty and fought in Washington for four years, culminating in the 2010 passage of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which created the World Trade Center Health Program and Victim Compensation Fund.



Michael Barasch advocating in D.C. alongside Tyler Ann Zadroga, daughter of NYPD Detective James Zadroga

Last summer, we were proud to stand on Capitol Hill alongside Jimmy's daughter, Tyler Ann, who has since graduated from college and joined the effort to preserve her father's legacy.

We remain committed to keeping the promise to "never forget." Like you, we are members of the 9/11 community. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of fighting on your behalf.