

Rep. Peter King Statement for the Health Subcommittee Hearing entitled “Examining H.R. 1786, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act”

June 11, 2015

I would like to thank Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Green for holding today’s hearing on the *James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act* (H.R. 1786). I am pleased that the Committee has recognized the need to extend this law. The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program and September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) have been lifelines for my constituents, as well as 9/11 responders and survivors nationwide.

The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program provides monitoring of 9/11 –related conditions for over 70,000 first responders and survivors in all 50 states. The data collected is essential to understanding the long term health effects of 9/11. The program provides treatment, through Clinical Centers of Excellence, to thousands in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Nearly 8,000 more responders and survivors access monitoring and care through a nationwide network of medical providers. A permanent WTC Health Program would allow some stability to participants, many of whom were cut down in the prime of their lives by debilitating cancers, respiratory illnesses, and other chronic diseases.

We have an obligation as Americans to provide these heroes the healthcare that they need. I would once again like to thank Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Green for taking this significant first step in making the WTC Health Program and VCF permanent.