



June 11, 2015

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “Examining H.R. 1786, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act”

I. INTRODUCTION

On June 11, 2015, at 10:15 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “Examining H.R. 1786, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.”

II. WITNESSES

Panel 1

- Dr. John Howard, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH);

Panel 2

- Dr. Iris Udasin, Medical Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School;
- Mr. David Howley, Retired Police Officer, New York City Police Department; and
- Ms. Barbara Burnette, Former Detective, New York City Police Department.

III. BACKGROUND

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Federal government provided aid for those individuals who were injured or killed in the attacks and the immediate aftermath through a patchwork grant program. Nearly a decade after the attacks, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-347), was signed into law in January 2011. It established the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). The WTCHP authorization ends September 30, 2015, but applications may be filed with the VCF until October 3, 2016.

The WTCHP includes the following:

- Medical services for responders and survivors, including periodic monitoring, initial health evaluations, and medically necessary treatment for WTC-related health conditions.
- A network of Clinical Centers of Excellence and Data Centers.
- A Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee, data analysis, research, outreach to eligible individuals, quality assurance, and continued support for the WTC Health Registry.
- Payment for medical services provided to enrollees, less any payments available for workers' compensation, private health insurance, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

NIOSH is primarily responsible for administering the program; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services disburses payments to providers.¹

H.R. 1786, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act, was introduced on a bipartisan basis on April 14, 2015. This legislation would extend the WTCHP Fund indefinitely. The legislation also would remove the caps on payments under the VCF and remove the statute of limitations on filing claims.

IV. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Katie Novaria and Adrianna Simonelli of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

¹ Congressional Research Service, May 13, 2015, "The September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks: Reauthorization of Health and Injury Compensation Programs."