



November 18, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

With the impending budget shortfall facing the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) starting in 2025, U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), and U.S. Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY-12), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10), and Andrew Garbarino (R-NY-2) introduced in August 2021, the bipartisan legislation, “9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act” (HR.4965/S. 2683).

Its purpose is to ensure adequate funding for the World Trade Center Health Program so that it can continue to provide medical and mental health treatment and monitoring to injured and ill 9/11 responders and survivors.

In coming years, the WTCHP will not have enough funds to provide all the care that is needed for those still suffering the physical and mental health impacts of 9/11. This includes the responders and survivors who will be newly diagnosed in the coming years with 9/11-associated cancers caused by their toxic WTC exposures.

The WTCHP was created by Congress in 2010 and was reauthorized in 2015 to remain open until 2090 after years of efforts by 9/11 responders and survivors to get Washington to recognize the health impacts of the toxins at Ground Zero that were impacting thousands.

The WTCHP currently provides treatment and monitoring for over 118,000 9/11 responders and survivors from the World Trade Center site and Lower Manhattan, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville crash site, who live in every State and 434 out of 435 Congressional Districts.

If Congress does not take action this year to deal with the impending budget shortfall, then starting on October 1, 2024, the WTCHP will have to stop enrolling new members and start imposing additional cuts in services, including cancer care.

Among the approximately 360,000 World Trade Center survivors were more than 35,000 people who were children at the time of the 9/11 attacks and the aftermath who resided or attended school or daycare in the NYC disaster area, and were extremely vulnerable to harm from both toxic exposures and psychological trauma, and there are continuing reports of emerging health impacts to this population now that they are adults.

It's important to note that the WTCHP is not currently authorized to conduct research on this population in order to study the emerging impacts the WTC disaster has had on them. The bill (HR.4965/S. 2683) would also authorize the spending of funds by the WTCHP to develop a cohort of (now) young adults so as to be able to study the impacts of the WTC toxins and the attacks on those exposed as children.



Downtown Independent Democrats urges and calls on U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to include in the National Defense Authorization or the end of the year Omnibus bill, the provisions of HR 4965, S.2683 that would provide the funding for the WTCHP needs and that authorizes the creation of a research cohort to better study the health impacts on the Lower Manhattan community.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Richard Corman*

Richard Corman  
President, Downtown Independent Democrats