



Leo W. Gerard
International President

September 16, 2015

VIA EMAIL

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.2 million active and retired members of the United Steelworkers, **I ask you to support the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act (HR 1786).**

This important legislation will reauthorize health care and compensation programs for 9/11 survivors and rescuers who are sick, injured, and dying from illnesses caused by their exposures to toxic materials that day. The heroes who saved others on that terrible day did so without regard to their own future health. They acted with patriotic spirit and concern for their fellow human beings, with no thought that they may suffer from cancer or another debilitating illness ten or fifteen years later.

Nearly 33,000 people across the country have already become sick or injured due to the attacks on 9/11. Without reauthorization and full funding of the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, 72,000 heroic Americans will lose access to medical monitoring or treatment. Additionally, those 12,150 disabled rescuers who have already been deemed eligible for compensation will likely have their assistance cut in half.

We applaud those in Congress who have already co-sponsored this important bipartisan legislation and who are working to move it to final passage. It is our duty to care for our nation