

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2010

2010 Annual Report on 9/11 Health

Dear Colleague,

We would like to call your attention to the attached *2010 Annual Report on 9/11 Health*, which was recently released by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The report of the World Trade Center (WTC) Medical Working Group documents the extensive research showing that many rescue and recovery workers – who rushed to New York City from all over the United States – as well as community members, school children, and others who were exposed to harmful toxins on and after September 11, 2001, continue to suffer the physical and mental health effects of the attacks more than nine years later. Mayor Bloomberg appointed health experts to the Medical Working Group in 2007 to review scientific research on the health effects of 9/11 and the availability of appropriate services. The 2010 report summarizes nearly the entire body of published research on 9/11 health effects. It substantively documents large scale and persistent health problems among individuals who were exposed on 9/11 or in the weeks and months that followed.

As you know, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act would extend and improve protections and health care services to individuals directly affected by the terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001.

Much of the published research on 9/11 Health is based on information from the federally funded WTC Health Registry. The WTC Health Registry is the largest post-disaster exposure registry in U.S. history, with more than 71,000 exposed individuals enrolled. Nearly 20 percent of the Registry enrollees reside outside of the New York region, with some in every Congressional district. This reflects the fact that people came from all over the country to help.

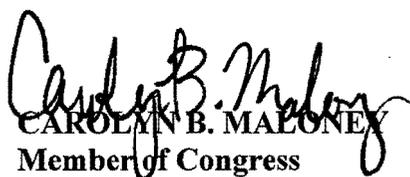
This year's new findings include that:

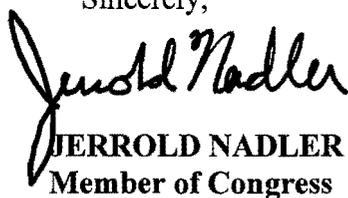
- Clinical studies demonstrate that steep declines in pulmonary function first detected among firefighters and EMS workers within a year after 9/11 have largely persisted, even among those who never smoked: four times as many firefighters and twice as many EMS workers had below-normal lung function for their ages 6-7 years after 9/11 as they did before 9/11
- Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) remains the most common 9/11-related health effect among exposed adults.

The Medical Working Group report also makes recommendations regarding future research. WTC scientific literature has established strong connections between WTC exposure and respiratory illness and post-traumatic stress disorder. Research on the relationship between WTC exposure and cancer is ongoing. The Medical Working Group report adopts several recommendations developed during a two-day analytic methods conference of nationally recognized biostatisticians, environmental health scientists and cancer epidemiologists - labor and community representatives attended as well. The recommendations call for researchers to develop consistent methods for tracking cancer diagnoses among people exposed to the attacks and for researchers to use similar measurements when possible to determine exposure levels across affected groups, among others.

The House soon will have an opportunity to vote on 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847), and we urge your support of this critical legislation. If you have any questions please have your staff contact Elizabeth Darnall in Maloney's office (5-7944), Kim Corbin in Nadler's office (5-5635), or Deena Tauster in King's office (5-7896).

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress