

"We cannot forget those who risked everything to help the victims at Ground Zero"

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today advocated for the swift passage of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act which will provide first responders with much needed care following their exposure to the toxins of Ground Zero.

“Tens of thousands of Americans raced to rescue those injured in the terrorist attacks on the days following September 11, 2001. In the course of their work that day and the days following, they were exposed to dangerous toxins and physical hazards,” said Slaughter. “As we recently observed the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, we cannot forget those who risked everything to help the victims at Ground Zero.”

Thousands of firefighters, rescue workers, responders, police officers, EMTs, construction workers, cleanup workers, residents, area workers, and school children, have contracted respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental health conditions as a result of the cleanup of the World Trade Center Site. The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act will provide funding for a health program to monitor and treat responders and community residents for health conditions related to the terrorist attacks of September 11. It also reopens the September 11, 2001 Victim Compensation Fund to provide monetary compensation for those physically injured by the attacks or by response activities and debris removal.

It is thanks to action by the Rules Committee, which Slaughter chairs, that the bill was able to come to the House floor for debate. Earlier this month, the same bill failed to pass when the life saving legislation required a 2/3 majority. Because it went through the Rules Committee, a simple majority vote will bring the bill one step closer to becoming law.

Video of her statement on the House Floor is available at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5DDorvWuO8>

Slaughter's Remarks on the House Floor Regarding the 9/11 Health and Compensation Fund.

I rise today in support of the men and women who risked their lives for their fellow citizens following the attacks of September 11.

On that day in 2001, tens of thousands of Americans raced to rescue those injured in the terrorist attacks. In the course of their work that day and the days following, they were exposed to dangerous toxins and physical hazards.

After giving so much of themselves, many of these firefighters, police officers, and bystanders face serious respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental health conditions.

While Ground Zero is 7 hours away from much of my district, New Yorkers banded together as they joined the chorus of Americans asking how they could help. Just the other day I heard a story about a Captain in the Niagara Falls Fire Company who broke his leg at Ground Zero in his effort to rescue those trapped under rubble. He is one of many Western New Yorkers who answered the call to serve.

As we recently observed the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, we cannot forget those who risked everything to help the victims at Ground Zero.

For this reason, I support H.R. 847, the 9/11 Health and Compensation Fund.

And I thank you for the time.