

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 7, 2011

John Howard, MD  
Director  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
395 E Street SW, Suite 9200  
Patriots Plaza Building  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Howard:

As the sponsors of the *James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act*, we write to file a petition pursuant to Sec. 3312(a)(6) of the Zadroga Act requesting that you conduct an immediate review of new medical evidence showing increased cancer rates among firefighters who served at ground zero and that you consider adding coverage for cancer under the Zadroga Act.

We read with great concern -as we are sure you must have done- the study conducted by the New York City Fire Department and published last week in *The Lancet* that indicated an elevated risk of melanoma, thyroid and prostate cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma among firefighters who served at ground zero, compared to the general population, and an overall increase in cancers among firefighters exposed to toxins at the World Trade Center site, compared to firefighters who were not exposed to those toxins. As you know, the only peer-reviewed study of possible 9/11-related cancers prior to this one was a small study showing a possible rise in multiple myeloma among 9/11 responders.

On August 8, 2011, we wrote to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius requesting that she act quickly to form the Science/Technical Advisory Committee, as required by the Zadroga Act. A copy of that letter is enclosed. Since the Zadroga Act requires you to take action on our petition within sixty days, and since this committee is charged with reviewing scientific and medical evidence to make recommendations on adding coverage for additional health conditions, we once again respectfully urge the Secretary and you to set up this panel in the next few weeks.

We feel strongly that there must be a scientific basis for adding coverage for new conditions under the Zadroga Act. However, given the severity of the illnesses reported in *The Lancet*, we also want to make sure that this and other peer-reviewed studies linking cancers to the attacks are evaluated as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this petition, and thank you for your work to establish a strong World Trade Center Health Program.

Sincerely,


  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress


  
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress


  
PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress

  
CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senator

  
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator

  
CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Member of Congress

  
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ  
Member of Congress

  
MICHAEL G. GRIMM  
Member of Congress

  
YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress