

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2024

Dr. John Howard Director
Program Administrator
World Trade Center Health Program
395 E Street, S.W., Suite 9200
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dr. Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Howard and Dr. Cohen:

We write to you today to express our interest in your decision regarding the inclusion of autoimmune and cardiovascular as a World Trade Center Health Program (“WTCHP” or “the Program”) covered condition.

As you know, in September 2023, all of the Clinic Directors of the World Trade Center Health Program – including Michael Crane, M.D., Mount Sinai CCE; Jacqueline Moline, M.D., Northwell CCE; Denise Harrison, M.D., NYU CCE; Ben Luft, M.D., Stony Brook CCE; Iris Udasin, M.D., Rutgers CCE; Jeffrey Low, M.D., FDNY CCE; and Joan Reibman, M.D., HHC CCE – joined Dr. David Prezant, M.D., of the Fire Department of the City of New York in filing two petitions to the Program to add autoimmune¹ and cardiovascular² conditions to the list of WTCHP covered conditions.

Under the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-347), the Program provides medical treatment to 9/11 responders and survivors based on a list of approved conditions whose cause has been associated with exposure to the toxins found in the air at Ground Zero. The statute outlines the process and requirements that need to be met for the Program Administrator to add conditions to the list of covered conditions.³

Following the Program’s receipt of a petition, the Program Administrator is required to review the petition and either determine whether they have provided sufficient evidence to meet the law’s requirements or request a recommendation of the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), which must provide a recommendation to the Administrator no more than 180 days after the request. To our knowledge, a decision on the petitions submitted by Dr. Prezant has yet to be made.

¹ <https://www.911healthwatch.org/files/2023-0903-petition-to-add-autoimmune-diseases.pdf>

² <https://www.911healthwatch.org/files/2023-0903-petition-to-add-cardiovascular-diseases.pdf>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/wtc/petitions.html>

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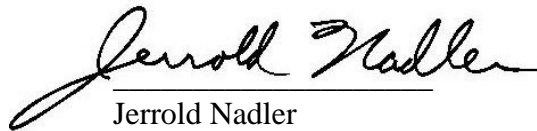
Given the interest by our constituents, many of whom are 9/11 responders and survivors who believe that their cardiovascular and or their autoimmune conditions are a result of exposure to the toxins that were in the air around Ground Zero, we would urge a speedy review of the petitions and request an update on the status of the petitions.

We look forward to your prompt reply on this very urgent matter.

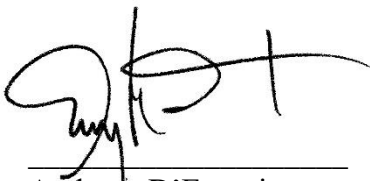
Sincerely,



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress