



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 26, 2008

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Maloney:

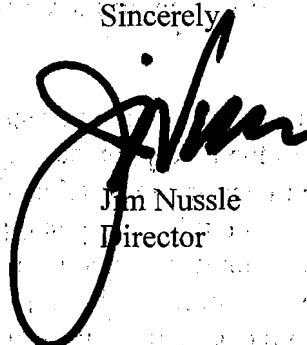
Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2008, to President Bush regarding funding for World Trade Center emergency responder health care. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

The Administration is committed to providing health screening and treatment to emergency responders at the World Trade Center. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been tracking and screening World Trade Center emergency responders since 2002. In May 2007, the President signed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007, which included \$50 million for this activity, which remains available as grantees continue to obligate funding appropriated in FY 2006. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, also included \$108 million for World Trade Center emergency responder health care. Since FY 2003, \$323 million has been appropriated for health monitoring and treatment of 9/11 first responders and recovery workers. The FY 2009 Budget requests an additional \$25 million to continue support for this activity.

The Administration appreciates your input. As you know, the President transmitted his FY 2009 Budget to Congress on February 4, 2008. The Budget reflects our Nation's highest priorities, including promoting economic growth, combating terrorism, and strengthening our homeland security. The Budget includes policies to boost short-term economic growth and to make tax relief permanent, as well as to improve the quality of education, expand access to affordable healthcare, address the rising cost of energy and help Americans keep their homes. The Budget makes these investments in the Nation's safety and prosperity while holding non-security spending growth to less than one percent and slowing the unsustainable growth of entitlement spending. These policies put us on a path to achieve a balanced budget by 2012.

Thank you again for your interest in the FY 2009 Budget. We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process.

Sincerely,



Jim Nussle
Director

Identical Letter Sent to:

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

The Honorable Vito Fossella

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

The Honorable Robert Menendez

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer