

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2006

John Howard, MD
Director
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg.
200 Independence Ave., SW
Room 715H
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Howard:

Today's tragic news that the autopsy into the death of New York City Police Detective James Zadroga was "directly related" to his work at Ground Zero is unfortunately the latest example of the immediate need for a plan to fully medically monitor everyone exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero and treat anyone who is sick as a direct result of this exposure.

When you were first appointed to your position as the federal coordinator of 9/11 health issues, we were pleased that you took the opportunity to meet with us and testify before the Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations. Since this time, it is our understanding that you have met with a number of the groups involved with advocating for and providing medical treatment to those exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero. Additionally, last month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the distribution of the \$75 million that Congress appropriated last year for this problem.


Your appointment, testimony and meetings, along with the CDC's announcement of funding, have all been positive steps forward, and we now look forward to learning the details of the federal government's comprehensive plan to fully monitor and treat those who are sick as a direct result of 9/11. Because time is of the essence, we are requesting a meeting to be held with us and the groups who have been active in this cause. At this meeting we would ask that you outline the status of the federal government's plan and allow us to give you any additional input you need. We would appreciate it if this meeting could take place in New York as soon as possible.

To schedule this meeting, please contact Edward Mills in Representative Maloney's office at (202) 225-7944 or edward.mills@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



VITO FOSSELLA
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress