

FRIENDS OF HILLARY

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NYC FIREFIGHTER UNIONS ENDORSE SENATOR CLINTON FOR RE-ELECTION

New York, NY -- New York City's firefighter union today endorsed Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for re-election, praising the Senator's leadership in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, her steadfast championing of threat-based homeland security funding, and her attention to the health and safety of first responders. The announcement reflects the strong depth and breadth of Senator Clinton's support as she faces re-election in November.

"Senator Hillary Clinton has proven herself to be a tireless advocate for New Yorkers and our firefighters," said Steve Cassidy, President of the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA). "New York's Bravest are honored to endorse Senator Clinton for re-election."

"Hillary Clinton has been a staunch friend and supporter of New York City firefighters and their families from her first day in the United States Senate. But it goes far beyond that," said Peter Gorman, President of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association (UFOA). "Senator Clinton has been tireless in her efforts to fight for everyone in this state who needs her help."

"I am deeply honored to have the support of the brave men and women of New York City's firefighter unions," Senator Clinton said. "They are true heroes who put their lives on the line, day in and day out, to protect us. I look forward to continuing to serve with them to keep New York safe."

In declaring their support for Senator Clinton, the unions recognized her leadership in the following areas:

Funding to Keep New York Safe:

- Senator Clinton has been a leading proponent of threat based and direct homeland security funding to localities, authoring legislation, including the Homeland Security Block Grant Act, to provide relief to state and local governments to improve emergency response and public safety locally.
- Senator Clinton has conducted two statewide Homeland Security Funding Surveys confirming serious flaws in the system to deliver homeland security funds.

Supporting First Responders:

- Senator Clinton worked to pass legislation designed to speed up the payment of benefits to the families of public safety officers who died in the line of duty while responding to the September 11th terrorist attacks.
- Senator Clinton worked with her colleagues to champion [legislation](#) which created a commemorative stamp in honor of emergency personnel who responded to the terrorist attacks. Proceeds from the sale of the stamp benefit emergency service workers killed or permanently disabled as a result of responding to the terrorist attacks on September 11th.
- Senator Clinton worked with fire union officials and others to support pay-raises for first responders.
- Senator Clinton was an early and strong supporter of New York City's successful bid for the 2011 World Police & Fire Games, to be held during the ten year anniversary of 9/11.

Health Tracking, Monitoring and Treatment:

- Senator Clinton secured \$12 million in federal funding to help establish the World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program at Mt. Sinai.
- Senator Clinton fought a persistent and successful campaign to secure \$90 million in additional federal funding for a comprehensive health tracking program to monitor and study the health of emergency services and rescue and recovery personnel exposed to hazardous contaminants at Ground Zero. This included \$25 million specifically to monitor firefighters and \$65 million to monitor police and other first responders.
- Senator Clinton, along with her colleagues in the New York Congressional delegation and representatives from the City, fire, police and labor unions, worked to restore \$125 million in 9/11 worker aid to New York. This funding, which was originally rescinded by the Bush Administration, is now available for ongoing worker's compensations claims and for baseline and follow-up screening, clinical examination, long-term health monitoring and treatment.
- Senator Clinton joined her colleagues in the successful effort to have the Secretary of Health and Human Services appoint a 9/11 Health Coordinator to continue monitoring the long-term health effects associated with the September 11th attacks.

Mental Health Services:

- After 9/11, Senator Clinton worked to extend the Project Liberty program, which provided crucial mental health services to firefighters and others in need.
- Senator Clinton supported New York City's efforts to secure \$4 million in funding from the Justice Department's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program for continued mental health counseling for police officers and firefighters.

A HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOGRAPH OF THE EVENT IS AVAILABLE AT:

<http://www.hillaryclinton.com/downloads/brooklynnyfd.html>.

Updates since the April 2006 press release went out:

\$125 million Update

Summer-Fall 2006: Through meetings with HHS Secretary Leavitt, HRC and her Congressional colleagues worked together to push for the money to be distributed. Last week HRC and her colleagues welcomed the announcement that the first federal money for 9/11 health treatment was distributed.

Victim's Compensation Fund

September 12, 2006: HRC co-sponsored with Menendez, Lautenberg and Schumer *The James Zadroga Act of 2006* to amend the eligibility rules of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund, extending the filing deadline beyond the original December 2003 limit so that victims and first responders who became ill – in addition to their respective family members – can still be compensated. The bill also allows for adjustment of previous awards and allows eligibility to responders and families of responders who arrived to Ground Zero after the first 96 hours.

Maloney and Nadler House bills

September 2006: HRC introduced the Senate companions to Representative Nadler's *9/11 Comprehensive Health Benefits Act* and Representative Maloney's *Remember 9/11 Health Act*. Both of these bills will expand health protections for first responders affected by 9/11 using both the Medicare and workers' compensation programs.

9/11 Heroes Health Improvement Act of 2006

September 13, 2006: HRC authored the *9/11 Heroes Health Improvement Act of 2006* which authorizes \$1.9 billion in grants to be available until 2011. The purpose of these grants, administered through the Department of Health and Human Services, is to make available funding for medical and mental health treatment and monitoring to those individuals suffering from their exposure to toxins in the days, weeks, and months following the attacks. It is designed to assist those in need of ongoing medical and mental health monitoring, tracking, and treatment and who responded to Ground Zero, Fresh Kills, or the Pentagon. HRC will continue to push for this bill when the Senate goes back into session.

Additionally, HRC secured a commitment from Chairman Enzi for a hearing on 9/11 health before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Pension Benefits

August 14, 2006: HRC welcomed Governor Pataki's response to calls for help with the obvious health crisis afflicting those who selflessly responded to the September 11th attacks. Governor Pataki signed into law legislation to allow death benefits to be paid to the beneficiaries of all those who die from injuries linked to their work at Ground Zero- like the little girl left behind by the death of her father, NYPD Detective James Zadroga. In April 2006 HRC joined Senators Menendez, Lautenberg and Schumer in sending a letter to Governor Pataki calling on him & other state leaders to pass this legislation.