



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 9, 2018

Via First Class Mail

Chairman Lamar Alexander
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Patty Murray
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions
United States Senate
154 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Richard Shelby
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Greg Walden
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposal in the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget to remove the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) from the management and administration of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). This ill-advised proposal would unnecessarily endanger the tens of thousands of New Yorkers and others

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around the country who are still suffering from 9/11-related injuries, including several types of cancer. For that reason, participants in the WTCHP, advocates, public health professionals, and others oppose this move. This proposal should not come to fruition, and I urge you to take all action necessary to ensure that it is not carried out.

The WTCHP serves responders and survivors of the 9/11 Disaster sites in New York, at the Pentagon, and at the Shanksville crash site. It covers over 83,000 responders and survivors who live and seek monitoring and treatment in every state and in 433 of 435 Congressional districts.

Since at least 2002, NIOSH has been at the forefront of responding to the health issues related to the 9/11 disaster. NIOSH administered the original World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program and the World Trade Center Environmental Health Center grant. Under the current WTCHP, NIOSH has continued its responsibility for supervising the monitoring and treatment of 9/11-related health issues. In addition to funding monitoring and treatment services, NIOSH has funded research projects designed to help answer critical questions about health issues related to the 9/11 disaster. This research plays a vital role in determining which health conditions are covered by the WTCHP. NIOSH's critical importance to the program is recognized in the statute authorizing the WTCHP. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300mm-5(14) (designating the Director of NIOSH as the WTCHP Administrator for all purposes other than certain specified purposes).

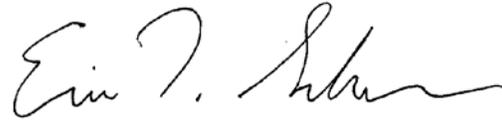
The Administration has offered no compelling justification for its proposal to reorganize the management and administration of the WTCHP, which utilizes the expertise of staff in positions shared with NIOSH. The Administration has also failed to explain how this change would be achieved without negatively impacting the health of the 9/11 responders and survivors who rely on the WTCHP for essential health care services. Separating the WTCHP from NIOSH would be unnecessarily disruptive and potentially dangerous for the victims of the greatest attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor.

As Attorney General, I am entrusted with promoting New Yorkers' health, safety and welfare, and thus have a particular interest in the effective management of the WTCHP, which provides critical health treatment and medical monitoring services for those exposed to the 9/11 disaster. The WTCHP includes a Responder Program for rescue and recovery workers, including more than 16,000 New York City firefighters. The WTCHP also includes a Survivor Program for those who lived, worked, or went to school in lower Manhattan on 9/11. More than sixty percent of those enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Registry, funded by NIOSH, live in New York.

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For these reasons, I urge you to do all that you can to block this unwise and potentially dangerous proposal in the President's Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric T. Schneiderman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
Attorney General of the State of New York

cc: Senator Chuck Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand