

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2005

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-112 Capitol Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
123 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Specter and Ranking Members Byrd and Harkin:

We write to thank you for restoring \$125 million in rescinded September 11th assistance – previously appropriated to New York as part of the \$20 billion contained in the FY 2002 Defense Appropriations bill - for continued worker's compensation and medical and mental health funding in the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill that passed the Senate last week. There is no doubt that this funding will help those still suffering from significant financial, medical, and mental health needs in the aftermath of the attacks. We write to request and urge that this funding remain in the Final Conference Report that will emerge from negotiations between the House and Senate but that the funds used to restore the \$125 million not come at the expense of other important worker's compensation and unemployment insurance accounts.

We are grateful for your help and attention. We respectfully request that this funding, as outlined in the Amendment, be restored to New York as emergency spending in either the FY '06 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill or in an appropriate emergency spending vehicle moving through the Congress. We, like you, know that we cannot walk away from our workers, first responders, firefighters, police officers, and others who continue to need our help.

We know that emergency spending measures are moving through the Congress related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and for other purposes. The original \$125 million was appropriated as emergency spending and it was to remain available until expended. We believe that this is the proper way to fix the unprecedented rescission by the Administration. We stand ready to do

whatever is necessary to ensure that this money is returned to New York for the outstanding needs and we stand ready to do everything required of us in the days and months ahead.

Thank you, again, for your continued attention to this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us or our staff should you need additional information. On behalf of the men and women in New York whose lives will be helped by this funding, the Mayor of New York City, the Governor of New York, the Commissioner of the Fire Department of New York, the New York City Police Foundation, the Uniformed Firefighters Association, and others, thank you for your help and attention.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer



Hillary Rodham Clinton