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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MONETARY POLICY

October 1, 2020

Ms. Seema Verna  
Administrator,  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Verna,

I am writing regarding the necessity for CMS to reimburse the New York City Fire Department for offsets from disbursements to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) since 2016 originating from a dispute between CMS and the City of New York entirely unrelated to the FDNY. These offsets totaling at least \$2.1 million were taken from the FDNY World Trade Center Heath Program. These offsets pose a clear and present health danger to the FDNY's 9/11 heroes. This miscarriage of justice to our 9/11 first responders must be corrected.

I understand that the Department of the Treasury is working with CMS to "suspend further offsets for CMS debts" (see Treasury's letter, September 30, 2020). I cannot emphasize how essential it is for this matter to be resolved without further delay. This is literally a life and death issue for many of my constituents, and other FDNY heroes throughout the New York Metropolitan area, who put their lives on the line at Ground Zero. They ran into the Twin Towers as they were engulfed in flames and on the days, weeks and months which followed searched for survivors and remains. To simply say there is no legal mechanism to reimburse the money to care for these heroes ignores their sacrifice.

The anxious messages I receive from these heroes and the constant inquiries from the media and the general public require speedy resolution if we are to sustain any level of confidence with the American people. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Enc.