



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 04 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (Zadroga Act) was signed into law on January 2, 2011, establishing the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to provide monitoring and treatment for WTC-related health conditions for enrolled responders and survivors. (The WTC Health Program has been reauthorized for 75 years, through fiscal year 2090.) Section 3311(a)(4) of the Zadroga Act establishes a limit of 25,000 responders who can be enrolled following the July 1, 2011, implementation of the WTC Health Program. In addition, section 3301(g)(1) requires that the Secretary of Health and Human Services notify Congress when the WTC Health Program reaches 80 percent (or 20,000) of the numerical limitation for such responders. This letter serves to notify you that the WTC Health Program is approaching 80 percent of the statutory numerical limitation for new responder enrollment. As of June 1, 2019, the number of newly-enrolled responders, excluding those who are deceased, is 19,236.

Based on current projections, the WTC Health Program anticipates that the number of newly enrolled responders will reach 80 percent of the statutory enrollment numerical limitation in early September of 2019, and the full 25,000 numerical limitation will be met sometime between October 2020 and February 2021. (The Zadroga Act also has a 20,000 notification and 25,000 numerical limitation for newly-enrolled, certified-eligible survivors. However, the WTC Health Program is not yet approaching the limitation for newly-enrolled, certified-eligible survivors. At this time, the WTC Health Program does not expect to reach 20,000 newly-enrolled, certified-eligible survivors for several years but will continue to monitor this population closely.) If the WTC Health Program reaches 25,000 newly enrolled responders, it will have to stop enrolling responders into the Program. However, if the WTC Health Program reaches this numerical limitation, those responders already enrolled will not be affected.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions, please contact Marissa Thomas in the CDC Washington office at (202) 245-0623.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex M. Azar II", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alex M. Azar II