



## Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act

The Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act would establish a new fund to provide compensation for injuries to any individual, or their families, who were deemed an essential worker, required to leave their home to perform services and became ill or died as a result of the deadly coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act fund is modeled on the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) program. Specifically, the bill would:

- **Establish a compensation fund for all essential workers, personnel and their families** – across all industries – that were required to leave their homes to perform their services and became ill or died as a result of COVID-19;
- **Support essential workers affected by COVID-19** across the country in their recovery by providing critical financial assistance to help with medical costs, loss of employment, loss of business, replacement services and burial costs;
- **Authorize appropriated funds as needed for 5 years** with the fund permanently closing one fiscal year after the Special Master determines that no additional claims can be filed;
- **Create a new website and office** developed and administered by a Special Master to assist in the application process; and
- **Maximize compensation for essential workers and their families** by simplifying the application process to get those affected back on their feet.

Family members who share homes with essential workers and became sick through contact with those employees would be eligible to file a claim. The compensation application enables claimants to provide information regarding the extent of their loss, and eligible individuals would receive compensation no later than 20 days after approval.

U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10) and Peter King (R-NY-02) introduced identical bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Pandemic Heroes Compensation Act Endorsed by:** *Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Uniformed Fire Officers Association (UFOA); Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA); DC37; National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA); SMART, the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers.*