

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1455

To direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out a project to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of emergency responders and recovery and cleanup workers who responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out a project to collect video and audio recordings of personal histories and testimonials of emergency responders and recovery and cleanup workers who responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “9/11 First Responders
5 History Project Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Over 410,000 people were exposed to the
2 site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at
3 the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City,
4 including 50,000 workers from across the Nation
5 who traveled to the site to lend their support.

6 (2) Of these over 410,000 people, 91,000 were
7 rescue and recovery workers.

8 (3) Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was
9 one of the major health effects for individuals who
10 responded to the WTC attacks.

11 (4) Nineteen percent of adult enrollees (about
12 71,000 people) in the WTC Health Registry report
13 new PTSD symptoms, 4 times the rate typically
14 seen in adults in the United States.

15 (5) Of the more than 10,000 rescue and recov-
16 ery workers monitored for a study at the Mount
17 Sinai WTC Consortium over a five-year period from
18 2002 to 2007, 11% met criteria for probable PTSD,
19 8.8% had probable depression, 5.0% had probable
20 panic disorder, and 62% had substantial stress reac-
21 tion.

22 (6) According to the Mount Sinai study, the
23 rate of PTSD among responders to the September
24 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at the WTC is signifi-
25 cantly greater than in the general population and is

1 on par with the rate experienced by veterans of the
2 war in Afghanistan. For example, 15.5% of fire-
3 fighters report probable post-9/11 PTSD and fire-
4 fighters who worked at Ground Zero lost an average
5 of 12 years of lung function.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to create
7 a new federally sponsored, authorized, and funded project
8 that will coordinate at a national level the collection of
9 video and audio recordings of personal histories and
10 testimonials of emergency responders and recovery and
11 cleanup workers who responded to the September 11,
12 2001, terrorist attacks that will build upon and com-
13 plement previous and ongoing documentary work on this
14 subject, and to assist and encourage local efforts to pre-
15 serve the memories of such individuals so that Americans
16 of all current and future generations may hear from them
17 directly and better appreciate the sacrifices they made.

18 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT AT LIBRARY OF CON-**
19 **GRESS TO COLLECT VIDEO AND AUDIO RE-**
20 **CORDINGS OF HISTORIES OF 9/11 FIRST RE-**
21 **SPONDERS.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT.—Within the lim-
23 its of available funds, the Librarian of Congress (hereafter
24 referred to as the “Librarian”) shall establish an oral his-
25 tory project—

1 (1) to survey, during the initial phase of the
2 project, collections of audio and video recordings of
3 the reminiscences of 9/11 first responders that are
4 housed in archives, libraries, museums, and other
5 educational institutions, as well as ongoing documen-
6 tary work, in order to augment and complement
7 these endeavors and avoid duplication of effort;

8 (2) to solicit, reproduce, and collect—

9 (A) video and audio recordings of personal
10 histories and testimonials of 9/11 first respon-
11 ders; and

12 (B) visual and written materials (such as
13 letters, diaries, photographs, and ephemera) rel-
14 evant to the personal histories of individuals;

15 (3) to create a collection of the recordings and
16 other materials obtained, and to catalog and index
17 the collection in a manner the Librarian considers
18 appropriate; and

19 (4) to make the collection available for public
20 use through the Library of Congress, as well as
21 through such other methods as the Librarian con-
22 sider appropriate.

23 (b) USE OF AND CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ENTI-
24 TIES.—The Librarian may carry out the activities de-
25 scribed in subsection (a) through agreements and partner-

1 ships entered into with other government and private enti-
2 ties, and may otherwise consult with interested persons
3 (within the limits of available resources) and develop ap-
4 propriate guidelines and arrangements for soliciting, ac-
5 quiring, and making available recordings under the project
6 under this Act.

7 (c) SERVICES OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS; AC-
8 CEPTANCE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES; ADVANCE PAY-
9 MENTS.—In carrying out activities described in subsection
10 (a)(1), the Librarian may—

11 (1) procure temporary and intermittent services
12 under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

13 (2) accept and utilize the services of volunteers
14 and other uncompensated personnel and reimburse
15 them for travel expenses, including per diem, as au-
16 thorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States
17 Code; and

18 (3) make advances of money and payments in
19 advance in accordance with section 3324 of title 31,
20 United States Code.

21 (d) TIMING.—As soon as practicable after the enact-
22 ment of this Act, the Librarian shall begin collecting video
23 and audio recordings and other materials under subsection
24 (a), and shall attempt to collect the first such recordings
25 from the oldest individuals involved.

1 (e) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “9/11 first
2 responders” means emergency responders and recovery
3 and cleanup workers who responded to the terrorist at-
4 tacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, in New York
5 City, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon
6 (including the aftermath of such attacks).

7 **SEC. 4. PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR PROJECT.**

8 (a) ENCOURAGING SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE
9 OF DONATIONS.—The Librarian of Congress is encour-
10 aged to solicit and accept donations of funds and in-kind
11 contributions to support activities under section 3.

12 (b) DEDICATION OF FUNDS PROVIDED TO LIBRARY
13 OF CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
14 law—

15 (1) any funds donated to the Librarian of Con-
16 gress to support the activities of the Librarian under
17 section 3 shall be deposited entirely into an account
18 established for such purpose;

19 (2) the funds contained in such account shall be
20 used solely to support such activities; and

21 (3) the Librarian of Congress may not deposit
22 into such account any funds donated to the Librar-
23 ian which are not donated for the exclusive purpose
24 of supporting such activities.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act—

4 (1) \$250,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

5 (2) \$150,000 for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal

6 years.

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