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# 1st Senate bill for 9/11 responders

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WASHINGTON — "It's about time," Joe Zadroga said yesterday of the first Senate bill to aid those still suffering from the toxic clouds released on 9/11.

"He always got turned away and told nothing was the matter with him," Zadroga said of his son, NYPD Detective James Zadroga, who worked The Pile at Ground Zero and died of respiratory disease in January 2006.

At a Capitol Hill news conference, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), who introduced the \$12 billion legislation, said passing the bill would meet "an undeniable moral obligation to help the heroes of 9/11 and all others exposed."

The 9/11 cause glossed over the politics, at least for the day, as Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) put aside her potential challenge to Gillibrand next year to join her in pushing for treatment and compensation for first responders and others.

Prospects for passage of the bill are iffy. Similar versions have failed to get to the House floor, and the White House has yet to get behind a \$12 billion package that could weigh down President Obama's already controversial health care proposals.

Mayor Bloomberg stressed that 9/11 was an act of war, and it is a "national duty" to aid those injured in the response. Bloomberg also said the bill could relieve the city from "costly and lengthy court cases" brought by the victims.

"Guys got sick. I'm one of them," said Fire Lt. Marty Fullam, who received a lung transplant last March. "We're not looking for a handout. We're looking to get some medical bills paid."

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