

Washington, D.C. – The House yesterday voted on a bill, which previously had broad bipartisan support and which U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) supported in the Judiciary Committee, to provide health care compensation for 9/11 first responders who are suffering illnesses as a result of their service after the attacks. Rather than cutting wasteful spending elsewhere to pay for the bill, Democrats included a job-killing tax hike, and refused to allow amendments to explore other pay-fors.

Congressman Rooney asserted House Democrats should be ashamed of playing election-year politics with a bill to assist 9/11 first responders.

“What we’re seeing from House Democrat leadership is politics at its worst,” Rooney said. “If they want to pass another job-killing tax hike, they shouldn’t do it on the backs of the heroic first responders who put their lives on the line after the 9/11 attacks.

“This bill should have broad bipartisan support, but once again, House Democrats are more interested in divisive, partisan politics than trying to bring people together. How hard would it have been to find something in the federal budget that we’re willing to cut in order to help the heroes of 9/11?

“After 9/11, our country and even Congress were united behind the victims and the heroes of that tragic day. Shame on Democrat leaders who are more concerned with raising taxes and spewing tired rhetoric than with helping American heroes.”

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