

## **Hillary Clinton: Aid sick 9/11 workers**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

December 11th 2007

WASHINGTON - Sen. Hillary Clinton and New York area lawmakers have added \$109 million in health care for sick Ground Zero workers as part of a massive spending bill that faces an uncertain future in a budget standoff between Democrats and the White House.

The money for treating Ground Zero workers - double the amount provided in an earlier emergency spending bill - was wrapped into a \$500 billion-plus spending bill the Democratic-controlled Congress is working on. President Bush already has threatened to veto it.

As a senator, Clinton (D-N.Y.) has pushed for years for the government to provide a long-term health care program for those sickened from their work at the toxic World Trade Center debris pile following the 2001 terrorist attacks. As a presidential hopeful, she has highlighted her work on the issue.

"Today's announcement marks another step toward addressing those enduring wounds," Clinton said.

The prior year's budget provided \$50million to help maintain such health programs, most of which are based in the New York City area. The White House on Saturday threatened a veto, saying it's unacceptable to add billions of dollars to domestic programs.

The bill contains \$11 billion above President Bush's February budget, awarding the money to domestic programs such as education and health research. Clinton urged the President not to follow through on his veto threat.

"The New Yorkers and the responders from across the country who came to our aid have suffered enough without being caught in the middle of a political squabble," she said.