

9/11 Families to U.S. Senate: Don't Disarm Us in the War on Terrorism!

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the more than 3,600 members of the 9/11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism, we urge you to support our war against the murderers who injured us and killed our loved ones by defeating the legal fees amendment to the tax bill on the floor this week.

As private citizens, we cannot launch cruise missiles or fly stealth bombers. Instead, our weapon in the war against terrorism is the U.S. civil justice system. You armed us when you enacted the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1991 and the USA Patriot Act less than two years ago.

We have legal action to bankrupt those who financed 9/11 and deny terrorists the resources to ever again kill innocent Americans. Yet the legal fees amendment to the tax bill would disarm us as we are on the verge of holding accountable al Qaeda's bankrollers!

We do not have the resources to take on giant Middle Eastern banks, members of the Saudi royal family and other powerful terrorist funders alone. The *only* way we can bring al Qaeda to justice is by hiring talented, dedicated attorneys willing to shoulder the enormous personal and financial risk in prosecuting this groundbreaking case. It was in *our* best interest to hire our attorneys on a contingency basis, and that is why we did so. By passing the legal fees amendment you would tie our hands behind our backs while allowing terrorist defendants and their sponsors to spend an unlimited sum on legal fees to thwart us!

If our action is unsuccessful, our attorneys will lose millions of dollars, thousands of hours in time and personal sacrifice. But if we win, every penny we pay them will be more than worth their dedication to our causes of accountability, justice, and greater security for all Americans.

We are outraged that this amendment would place an "excise tax" on attorney fees paid by plaintiffs. There would be no such tax on legal fees for defendants. This will stack the legal deck against ordinary citizens like us and in favor of any defendant with access to billions of dollars—including al Qaeda's sponsors.

Please do not disarm us. Defeat the excise tax on legal fees paid by US citizens and help us disable international terrorism once and for all!

Sincerely,

Plaintiffs' Steering Committee
On behalf of the 9/11 Families United to Bankrupt Terrorism