



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SECTION  
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Dr. John Howard  
Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
395 E Street, SW, Suite 9200  
Washington, DC 20201

January 5, 2010

Dear Dr. Howard

Thank you very much for participating last month in our session “The Future of Occupational Safety & Health in the Obama Administration” at the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting. Our members appreciated that you took time from your busy schedule to share your perspective and expertise, and listen to our thoughts and suggestions.

In early 2009, we issued the “Protecting Workers on the Job” agenda which outlined our priorities for preventing work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths. More than 100 organizations have signed onto the agenda, from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the Migrant Clinicians Network, to the Young Workers Health and Safety Network. Our top priorities for 2010 remain the same: to ensure health and safety protections for all workers through tough enforcement of existing regulations, new worker protections, research and education. As you heard from our members during the session last month, we urge you to support policies, regulatory initiatives and legislation to:

- Direct funds to the research community to support research on direct transmission of airborne infectious agents in the face of the H1N1 pandemic and emerging infectious diseases
- Increase support for state-based and national surveillance of work-related injuries, illnesses and hazards, so that the health status of the U.S. workforce can be adequately described
- Expand funding for the Occupational Health Internship Program to encourage students to pursue careers in occupational injury and illness prevention
- Establish permanent funding for applied research and intervention, education and outreach programs to reduce and/ or eliminate disparities in rates of work-related injuries and illnesses
- Revise the FACE workplace fatality reports to include identifying information of the worker killed with a photo of the victim approved by the family

We hope you will consider attending the APHA OHS Section’s meeting next year in Denver. Our session with the leaders of MSHA, NIOSH and OSHA is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2010 at 4:30 pm.

Sincerely,

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cc: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
The Honorable Thomas Frieden, MD