

Friends of *NIOSH*

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole:

As Congress considers funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2021, the *Friends of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)* strongly urges you to provide at least \$354.8 million for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill.

The *Friends of NIOSH* is a coalition of industry, labor, professional, education and scientific organizations that are dedicated to research and prevention of occupational injuries and illness and committed to the training of occupational health and safety professionals. Our broad coalition of stakeholders understands the value of research, state-based surveillance of work-related injuries and illnesses, education and occupational illness prevention from many perspectives, including the labor, academic and business communities.

NIOSH is the primary federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related illness and injury. NIOSH provides national and world leadership to avert workplace illness, injury, disability, and death by gathering information, conducting scientific research, and translating this knowledge into products and services. NIOSH supports programs in every state to improve the health and safety of workers.

With this in mind, we are very concerned that the President's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request significantly cuts NIOSH, eliminating or severely cutting programs that protect the health and safety of America's workforce, such as the Education and Research Centers (ERCs), the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AFF) Program, the Total Worker Health (TWH) Program, and the state occupational health and safety surveillance programs. These cuts would also harm NIOSH's robust research program, the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA), which was developed to apply the tools of science to improving workplace health and safety. Elimination of any of these programs would limit the ability of workers to avoid exposures that can result in injury or illnesses, push back improved working conditions, eliminate occupational safety and health services to U.S. businesses, and may ultimately raise health care costs for businesses and consumers.

The health and safety of the American workforce is a shared goal of all of our organizations. Many of our members are employed in high risk occupations. Rather than accept that working requires individuals to place their health and wellbeing at risk, we believe strongly that all occupations can be made safer through research, education and training.

In order to maintain the health and safety of the American workforce, we ask that you include at least \$354.8 million for NIOSH in the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

1. Ag Health and Safety Alliance
2. Agri-Services Agency LLC
3. Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA)
4. American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
5. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
6. American Industrial Hygiene Association – Iowa/Illinois Local Section
7. American Industrial Hygiene Association – Rocky Mountain Section
8. American Industrial Hygiene Association - Southern California
9. American Nurses Association
10. American Public Health Association
11. American Thoracic Society
12. Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP)
13. Association of University Programs in Occupational Health and Safety
14. Axion Health, Inc.
15. Bassett Healthcare Network
16. Center for Environmental Health and Health Promotion, University of California Los Angeles
17. Center for Health and the Environment, University of California, Davis
18. Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, University of California, Davis
19. Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, University of California Irvine
20. Center for Violence Prevention, University of Texas Medical Branch
21. Central Appalachian Regional Education and Research Center
22. College of Health and Human Services, Northern Kentucky University
23. College of Population Health at the University of New Mexico
24. College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center
25. Colorado Livestock Association
26. Colorado School of Public Health's Center for Health, Work and Environment
27. Colorado School of Public Health, CU Anschutz
28. Colorado School of Public Health Occupational and Environmental Medicine Residency Program
29. Colorado State University, Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences
30. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
31. Crum & Forster
32. Dana Farber Cancer Institute
33. Danaher, Water platform
34. Department of Animal Sciences, Colorado State University
35. Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
36. Dimensions in Occupational Health and Safety, Inc.
37. Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Department of Medicine, National Jewish Health
38. E.E.Cruz & Co. Contractors and Engineers
39. EME Safety, LLC
40. Environmental and Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology Program, Harvard School of Public Health
41. Emergency Safety Instruction 2001
42. Fine, Olin, & Anderman, LLP
43. Fishing Partnership Support Services

44. Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health
45. Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington
46. Harvard T.H. Chan Education and Research Center for Occupational Safety and Health
47. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Center for Work, Health, & Well-being
48. Health Links
49. Health Science Associates
50. Healthier Workforce Center of the Midwest
51. Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety
52. High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
53. Human Factors and Ergonomic Society (HFES)
54. International Association of Fire Fighters
55. Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH)
56. Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
57. Liberty Mutual Insurance
58. Marshfield Clinic Health System
59. Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
60. Metropolitan Washington Association of Occupational Health Nurses (MWAOHN)
61. Midwest Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training
62. Migrant Clinicians Network
63. Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center, Colorado School of Public Health
64. National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health
65. National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS)
66. National Environmental Health Association
67. National Farm Medicine Center
68. National Safety Council
69. Nebraska Safety Council
70. New Jersey Public Health Association
71. New Jersey Society for Public Health Education (NJ SOPHE)
72. New Solutions: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy
73. New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health
74. New York New Jersey Education and Research Center
75. New York Farm Bureau
76. Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
77. Northeast Equipment Dealers Association Inc.
78. Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety
79. Occupational and Industrial Orthopedic Center, Graduate Program of Ergonomics and Biomechanics
80. Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development
81. Oregon Healthy Workforce Center
82. Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Oregon Health & Science University
83. Oregon State University College of Public Health and Human Sciences
84. Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center
85. Portland State University Occupational Health Psychology Program
86. Professional Logging Contractors of Maine
87. Public Employees Safety Association of Maryland (PESA)
88. Rockaway Township Division of Health
89. Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health
90. Rutgers School of Public Health
91. Safety Executives of New York (SENY)
92. Society for Occupational Health Psychology
93. Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention
94. Saint Louis University, Doisy College of Health Sciences

95. St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
96. Sunshine Education and Research Center
97. Texas A&M Transportation Institute
98. Texas College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
99. Texas Forestry Association
100. Texas Shrimp Association
101. The CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy
102. The Phylmar Group
103. UTHealth School of Public Health
104. University of Cincinnati Education and Research Center
105. University of Iowa College of Public Health
106. University of Minnesota, Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety Education and Research Center
107. University of Minnesota School of Public Health
108. University of Nebraska Medical Center
109. University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
110. University of Washington School of Public Health
111. VNACJ Community Health Center
112. WCF Mutual Insurance Company
113. Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, University of California, Davis
114. Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center
115. Worksafe Iowa