

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

**Support the Health and Safety of Workers Nationwide with Recommended FY 2024
Funding of OSHA at \$738.7 Million and NIOSH at \$375.3 Million**

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

As we still realize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know the vital role of occupational safety and health to the wellCOVID

NIOSH funding supports many important programs, including AgFF, ERCs, and TWH. The agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry preventable fatality rate is six times that of the all-industry average.³ In 2021, over 17,100 workers in this sector were injured seriously enough to require time away from work. In addition, 453 workers died.⁴ Furthermore, due to its decentralized nature and diverse structure, the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector lags other industries in reducing the toll of work-related injuries and illnesses.

Directed by Congress, NIOSH established Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention in 1990 in response to evidence that agricultural workers were suffering higher rates of injury and illness than other U.S. workers. Today, the initiative includes ten regional centers y.⁵ These centers have conducted research leading to evidence-based standards that save lives. It is the only substantive federal effort to ensure safe working conditions for workers in one of our

With an aging occupational safety and health workforce, the NIOSH Education and Research Centers are essential for training the next generation of professionals. The ERCs establish academic, labor, and industry research partnerships to achieve these goals. Currently, the 18 ERCs⁶ occupational safety and health graduates who will go on to professional roles. NIOSH also supports education and research in occupational health through academic degree programs and research opportunities.

The National Occupational Research Agenda continues to protect American workers through its work-related illness and injury research and TWH integrates workplace interventions that protect safety and health with activities that advance the overall well-being of workers.

provide FY 2024 funding for OSHA at a minimum of \$738.7 million and NIOSH at a minimum of \$375.3 million. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN)
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)
Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BGC)
Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP)
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA)
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
National Safety Council (NSC)
Safe States Alliance
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ For a list of the current centers, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/agctrhom.html>

⁶ For a list of the current ERCs, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/ercportfolio.html>