

Friends of NIOSH

Chairman Tom Harkin
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Richard Shelby
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

As Congress considers funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2013, the *Friends of NIOSH* strongly urges you to include at least the Fiscal Year 2012 level for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). NIOSH, within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 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.

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, education and occupational illness prevention from many perspectives, including the labor, academic and business communities. It is with our shared support for occupational research, education and prevention programs that we urge you to preserve funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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 well being at risk, we believe strongly that all occupations can be made safer through research, education and training.

NIOSH understands these needs and has developed programs like the Education and Research Centers (ERCs) and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program (AFF) to meet the needs of the American work force. The elimination of these NIOSH supported programs as proposed in the President's fiscal 2013 budget, 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 educational services to over 10,000 U.S. businesses, and ultimately raise health care costs.

In order to maintain the health and safety of the American workforce, we ask that you include at least the Fiscal Year 2012 level of funding in the Fiscal Year 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

1. AgriSafe Network
2. Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America
3. AgriWellness, Inc.
4. Alabama Local Section – American Industrial Hygiene Association
5. Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA)
6. Alliance for Leadership and Interconnection
7. American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
8. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
9. American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)
10. American Industrial Hygiene Association
11. American Nurses Association
12. American Public Health Association
13. American Society of Safety Engineers
14. American Thoracic Society
15. Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP)
16. Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.
17. Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
18. Axion Health, Inc.
19. Bassett Healthcare Network
20. California AgrAbility Program
21. California Farm Labor Contractor Association
22. California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC)
23. California Institute for Rural Studies
24. California Public Health Association-North
25. California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
26. Carroll County Memorial Hospital
27. Center for Health & the Environment, UC Davis (CHE)
28. Central State University Department of Manufacturing Engineering
29. Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council
30. Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center
31. College of Health and Human Sciences, Purdue University
32. College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University
33. Colorado School of Public Health
34. Deep South Local Section, American Industrial Hygiene Association
35. Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences, Colorado State University
36. Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
37. Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Murray State University
38. Division of Occupational Safety and Health, California Department of Industrial Relations
39. Environmental and Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology Program, Harvard School of Public Health
40. Environmental Health Sciences Department, Eastern Kentucky University
41. Expertise Matters, LLC
42. Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
43. Farmworker Association of Florida
44. Farmworker Justice
45. Florida Local Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association

46. Forest Resources Association
47. The Fritz J. and Dolores H. Russ College of Engineering and Technology at Ohio University
48. Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center (GCOHC)
49. Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association
50. Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health
51. Heartland Education and Research Center
52. High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
53. Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES)
54. Illinois Education and Research Center
55. Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health
56. Industrial Minerals Association – North America (IMA-NA)
57. International Association of Fire Fighters
58. International Chemical Workers Union Council/UFCW
59. John Muir Institute for the Environment (JMIE)
60. Los Jardines Institute / SNEEJ
61. Mass. Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH)
62. Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School
63. Migrant Clinicians Network
64. National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS)
65. National Farm Medicine Center
66. National Farmers Union
67. National Safety Council
68. Nationwide
69. Navistar
70. New Jersey Chapter, American Industrial Hygiene Association
71. New Jersey Chapter - American Society of Safety Engineers
72. New York Farm Bureau
73. New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health
74. New York State Public Employees Federation
75. North East Safety Training Col.
76. Northeast Center for Agricultural and Occupational Health
77. Northeast Equipment Dealers Association, Inc.
78. Northern California Section - American Industrial Hygiene Association
79. Northwest Horticultural Council
80. Oak and Ivy Health Systems, Inc.
81. Occupational & Environmental Health Network (OEHN)
82. Occupational Health Initiatives, Inc.
83. Occupational Medical Consulting LLC
84. Occupational Safety and Health Engineering Program, New Jersey Institute of Technology
85. Ohio Valley Local Section - American Industrial Hygiene Association
86. Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center
87. Philadelphia Local Section- American Industrial Hygiene Association
88. Pinnacol
89. Prairie Local Section – American Industrial Hygiene Association
90. Rocky Mountain Academy of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (RMAOEM)
91. Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH)

92. Rocky Mountain Local Section – American Industrial Hygiene Association
93. Sacramento Valley Section – American Industrial Hygiene Association
94. Safety Research, Inc.
95. School of Health Sciences, Purdue University
96. Sorptive Minerals Institute (SMI)
97. Southern California ERC
98. Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH)
99. State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
100. Sunshine Education and Research Center
101. Sycamore Township EMS & Fire Department
102. Transport Workers Union of America AFL-CIO (TWU)
103. UNITE HERE! International Union
104. United Methodist Ministries
105. University of California, Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute
106. University of California, School of Public Health
107. University of Cincinnati Student Chapter, American Association of Aerosol Research
108. University of Cincinnati Student Chapter of the American Industrial Hygiene Association
109. University of Cincinnati Education and Research Center
110. University of Cincinnati Student Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers
111. University of Iowa, College of Public Health
112. University of Minnesota, Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety Education and Research Center
113. United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
114. United Steelworkers
115. University of Kentucky College of Nursing
116. University of Kentucky, College of Social Work
117. University of Kentucky, Institute for Workplace Innovation
118. University of Washington
119. Upper Midwest Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
120. Upper Midwest Local Section - American Industrial Hygiene Association
121. UPTE 9119 Local 6, University of California, Davis
122. University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTE) 9119, AFL-CIO
123. Utah Local Section- American Industrial Hygiene Association
124. Washington Contract Loggers Association
125. Washington Growers League
126. Western Occupational & Environmental Medical Association (WOEMA)
127. Worksafe