



ASSOCIATION
OF OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
IN HEALTHCARE

Dedicated to the health and safety of healthcare workers

August 11, 2009

Robert Harrison, MD, MPH
Occupational Health Branch
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Building P, Third Floor
Richmond, CA 94804

Re: State-based occupational health and safety surveillance
PAR-09-194

Dear Dr. Harrison,

On behalf of the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP), we enthusiastically support the proposal from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for the NIOSH-funded "State-based occupational health and safety surveillance" cooperative agreement. Since 1987, the CDPH has been in the forefront of efforts to track work-induced injuries, diseases, and hazards; target high-risk industries and occupations for interventions; and make practical recommendations to employers, employees and health care providers. In a State as large as California, it is critical to forge strong partnerships between academic, public health, industry, labor and community based organizations. The scientists and staff at CDPH have been always willing to collaborate and find creative ways to join efforts across disciplines and institutions. The CDPH can assist the AOHP in their work on many occupational health issues such as safe patient handling, respiratory protection for healthcare workers, and the evaluation of safety products to prevent bloodborne pathogen exposures.

We look forward to working together over the next several years.

Sincerely,


Shari Lyons, RN BSN CIC COHN-S
AOHP, Region 1 Director



Sandra Domeracki Prickitt, RN, FNP, COHN-S
AOHP, Executive President