

Friends of *NIOSH*

April ##, 2019

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

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
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

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

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

As Congress considers funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2020, the *Friends of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)* strongly urges you to provide at least \$346.3 million for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

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 2020 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 \$346.3 million for NIOSH in the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Note: CIHC signed on to this letter on April 23, 2019.