

March 27, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you work to craft the FY 18 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, we urge you to support funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at a minimum of \$573.8 million. This amount is level funded with the amount enacted for Fiscal Year 2016 (and the Fiscal Year 2017 Continuing Resolution) after adjusting for inflation. We also ask that you support funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), including its Education and Research Centers (ERCs) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AgFF) sector program, at a minimum of its FY 16 funding level of \$339.121 million. This funding level includes \$26 million for AgFF and \$29.5 million for the ERCs.

Daily, about 12,000 U.S. workers sustain injuries on the job that are serious enough to require medical consultation, 11 workers die from an unintentional injury suffered at work, and 145 workers die from work-related diseases.<sup>1,2</sup> This burden costs industry and citizens an estimated \$4.8 billion per week.<sup>3</sup>

providing training, outreach, education, and assistance to employers. OSHA regulations address issues such as the use of personal protective equipment, permissible exposure limits to hazardous materials, and industry-cooperative programs, the Voluntary Protection Programs, recognizes employers who successfully implement effective safety and health management systems and maintain injury

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Consultation Program offers free and confidential advice to small and medium

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require time away from work.<sup>4</sup> Daily, an average of over 350 workers in this sector sustain injuries serious enough to require medical consultation, and more than one worker dies from an injury suffered at work.<sup>5</sup> 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 nine regional centers, and one national center to address childr 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

NIOSH supports education and research in occupational health through academic degree programs and research opportunities. With an aging occupational safety and health workforce, ERCs are essential to training the next generation of professionals. The Centers establish academic, labor and industry research partnerships to achieve these goals. Currently, the ERCs

professional roles. With an aging occupational safety and health workforce, and a critical shortage of qualified OSH professionals, ERCs are essential to educating the next generation of professionals.

you, at a minimum, fund OSHA at \$573.8 million and NIOSH at its FY 16 funding level. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American Industrial Hygiene Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Safety Engineers  
Board of Certified Safety Professionals  
Campbell Institute  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Safety Council  
ORCHSE Strategies, LLC  
Prevention Institute

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (2016). Table 2. numbers of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by case type and ownership, selected industries, 2015. Retrieved March 24, 2017, from [http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/osh\\_10292015.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/osh_10292015.htm)

<sup>5</sup> National Safety Council. (2017). *Injury Facts*®, 2017 Edition