



TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES • ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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Niklas Krause, MD, MPH, PhD
Director, NIOSH Southern California Education and Research Center
UCLA School of Public Health
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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1172

Dear Dr. Krause,

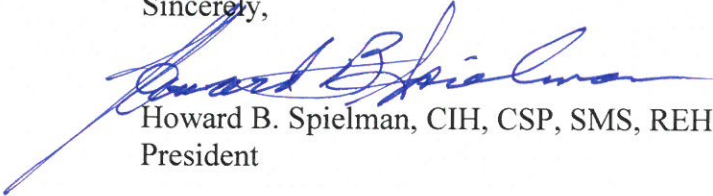
As the president of Health Science Associates, I am writing this letter of support for NIOSH funding.

It is my understanding that the President's FY18 budget request cuts in NIOSH, which would eliminate all of NIOSH's extramural programs including the ERCs, the AFF Program, and the Total Worker Health Program. Elimination of any of these programs would limit the ability of workers to avoid exposures that can result in injury or illness, push back improved working conditions, eliminate occupational safety and health educational services to U.S. businesses, and ultimately raise health care costs.

I believe that NIOSH and the ERCs provide important research and training and must be preserved. Over the years we have hired ERC trained professionals and found them to be exceptionally well prepared to work in the occupational and environmental health and safety arena. As a businessman, I consider my tax dollars spent on NIOSH to be a very good return on investment. The amount of money budgeted for NIOSH and OSHA is a pittance compared to the EPA. This is unfortunate because we get a great deal more bang for our buck from NIOSH. In fact, someone at high levels in the Administration and Congress should look at this. Instead of cutting NIOSH, it's budget should be increased. NIOSH should be funded no less than the Fiscal Year 2016 level of \$339.121 million, but ideally even more. It is rare to find a government agency that epitomizes good science, a strong sense of service and good management. NIOSH is that agency.

I hope that Congress will continue to support the critical work NIOSH and the ERCs do to improve the lives of workers and citizens of the community.

Sincerely,



Howard B. Spielman, CIH, CSP, SMS, REHS, CAC
President