

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
& Human Services, Education, &
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, &
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
& Human Services, Education, &
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health & Human Services, Education, &
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

As Congress considers funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2017, the *Friends of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health* strongly urges you to include at least the Fiscal Year 2016 level of \$339.121 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, education and occupational illness prevention from many perspectives, including the labor, academic and business communities.

NIOSH understands these needs and has developed programs like the Education and Research Centers (ERCs), the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program (AFF), and the Healthier Workforce Centers to protect the health and safety of America's workforce. NIOSH has also developed a robust research program – National Occupational Research Agenda - to apply the tools of science to improving workplace health and safety. The elimination of the NIOSH supported ERCs and AFF Program and the cuts in NORA as proposed in the President's fiscal 2017 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 U.S. businesses, and ultimately raise health care costs.

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.

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 the Fiscal Year 2016 level of funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,