

February XX, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairs Capito and Aderholt and Ranking Members Baldwin and DeLauro:

As you finalize the Fiscal Year 2025 Labor-H spending bill, we write to urge you to ensure the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) receives a modest increase in resources equivalent to \$655 million for the fiscal year to best protect the nation's workers. These resources would ensure OSHA can continue its vital mission of encouraging successful American business operations through best practices in occupational safety.

OSHA ensures safe conditions for America's workers by providing training, outreach, education, and technical assistance to employers. OSHA also sets regulations addressing pressing occupational safety issues such as the use of well-fitting personal protective equipment (PPE), permissible exposure limits to hazardous materials, and industry-specific safety procedures.

In addition to standard setting, OSHA operates voluntary cooperative programs that encourage business leaders to take a proactive approach to safety. One of the most recognized OSHA cooperative programs, the Voluntary Protection Program, identifies employers who successfully implement effective safety and health management systems and maintain injury and illness rates below the national average for their industries. The On-Site Consultation Program offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses.

Additional fatality prevention programs led by OSHA include National Emphasis Programs (NEPs). Beginning in 2008, these NEPs have saved countless lives by focusing employers on injury and fatality prevention efforts related to specific workplace safety topics and industries. OSHA has collaboratively worked with employers to harness energy on topics such as fall

prevention, silica and lead exposure and hazardous machinery operations. These programs are successful and must continue to be funded.

Now is not the time to slow our occupational safety and health efforts. There were 4,543 preventable injury-related deaths at work, or greater than 12 fatalities per day in 2023. Additionally, there were 4,070,000 injuries that required medical consultation, or over 11,000 per day. OSHA helps ensure workplaces can address, and potentially eliminate, the hazards that lead to this tragic toll on human life.

Beyond the human toll, each fatality and injury can extract a steep economic toll. Based on 2022 data, the total cost of work injuries was \$167 billion dollars.¹ This figure includes wage and productivity losses of \$50.7 billion, medical expenses of \$37.6 billion, and administrative expenses of \$54.4 billion.² This total also includes employers' uninsured costs of \$15 billion.³ The cost per medically consulted injury at work in 2022 was \$40,000, while the cost per death was \$1,390,000.⁴ These cost burdens are faced by employers and employees alike. Investing in safety yields critical results – saving not just lives but dollars for families and federal and state governments.

Failure to invest in OSHA will exacerbate these costs. Investing in OSHA; however, yields to dramatic business savings, ensures small and large businesses alike remain safe and competitive, supports economic gains, and reduces costs on society.

We appreciate your close attention to this matter and look forward to working with you and your respective panels to advance safe and productive workplaces nationwide.

Sincerely,

¹ <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/work/costs/work-injury-costs/>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid.