

October 14, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As you continue the search for the next head of the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), finding a candidate who will ensure BLS data remains credible and accurate is of vital importance. BLS data influences major economic and policy decisions for everyone from government agencies to individual households. Many businesses and organizations in the private and public sectors depend on BLS data to inform their strategic decisions impacting their future success; BLS' safety-related data is no exception. BLS must operate independently of political influence so the public and market continue to trust in the vital metrics BLS generates.

We, the undersigned coalition of occupational, environmental health and safety organizations, write on behalf of employers and individuals who all rely on safety and health data produced by BLS to inform prioritization of efforts and investments that keep Americans safe on the job. It is critical that safety data is sound and captures real hazards in the workplace, so employers can take appropriate action to safeguard their workers.

Economic Impact of Preventable Injuries and Fatalities

Data and research leading to the prevention of injuries in and outside the workplace is of vital importance. Preventable injuries are a leading cause of death in the United States and have been for over 25 years. Additionally, there is a significant economic burden associated with preventable injuries. The cost to business, society and families is estimated to be more than \$1.3 trillion on an annual basis.¹

The Critical Role of Credible and Accurate Federal Safety and Health Data

Credible and accurate safety and health data from the federal government is essential to safeguarding lives, guiding policy and fostering a culture of prevention across the nation. This data forms the backbone of evidence-based decision-making, enabling stakeholders to identify risks, allocate resources effectively and implement targeted interventions that reduce injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

¹ <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/>

Federal agencies such as BLS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provide foundational data on workplace safety. Equally vital are the contributions of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the National Center for Injury Violence and Prevention (Injury Center). Together, these agencies ensure safety and health data are comprehensive, timely and trustworthy. This integrated approach allows for the identification of emerging hazards, the evaluation of intervention effectiveness and the measurement of progress over time.

In an era of rapid technological change and evolving public health challenges, the federal government's commitment to rigorous data collection and transparent dissemination is more important than ever. Ultimately, credible federal data empowers communities, industries and policymakers to make informed decisions that protect lives and promote a safer, healthier future for all.

The Power of Sound Data in Reducing Injuries and Fatalities

Robust data collection systems help to identify shifts in trends and patterns indicating the emergence of new injury threats and concerns. In the context of occupational, home and community, and road safety, research and data are crucial to developing solutions that protect the safety and health of people based on causal determinants and effective interventions for prevention. As NIOSH notes in its brochure, titled "The Nation's Investment in Occupational Safety and Health Research – Research Priorities through Partnerships" (DHHS NIOSH Publication No. 2007-118), data shows when interventions are based on sound research, injuries and illnesses can be significantly reduced.

The Return on Investment of Sound Safety Data

In 2023, over 4 million workers sustained medically consulted injuries and 4,543 workers died. These preventable injury-related deaths and medically consulted injuries cost the U.S. economy \$176.5 billion dollars. This includes wage and productivity losses of \$53.1 billion, medical expenses of \$36.8 billion, administrative costs of \$59.5 billion, and uninsured costs of \$15.7 billion, but exclude property damage costs except to motor vehicles. These costs are borne by businesses, taxpayers, and, of course, workers themselves.

There is a clear return on investment (ROI) for organizations that invest in safety. Research produced by NSC and other leading organizations shows that when organizations focus on safety, they gain improved financial and business benefits, including reduced employee turnover, increased productivity, enhanced reputation, reduced liability cost and stronger community ties – all of which invite investment. Over 60% of chief financial officers in one survey reported that each \$1 invested in injury prevention returns \$2 or more, and over 40% said productivity was the greatest benefit of an effective workplace safety program. Taxpayers benefit, too. Safe workplaces reduce societal cost burdens, lessening the need for higher insurance premiums and

public assistance in the forms of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medicare and Medicaid.

The ROI on safety investments is only possible with sound data. BLS data is crucial to helping organizations understand their safety risks so they can implement protections. BLS data helps guide these investments, which save lives and \$43,000 for each prevented lost-time injury and \$1.46 million for each avoided occupational fatality.

Conclusion

We recognize the important role of research and data in developing effective policies, practices and solutions to reach our mission of eliminating preventable death and injury. BLS datasets, such as the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, are critical to achieving our mission. As such, we urge the administration to ensure government-produced health and safety data remains credible and accurate.

Sincerely,

ABSA International
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American Industrial Hygiene Association
American Society of Safety Professionals
Board of Certified Safety Professionals
Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA)
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
Institute of Hazardous Materials Management
International Safety Equipment Association
National Environmental Health Association
National Safety Council
Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association

cc: The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

The Honorable Tim Walberg, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce