

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Robert Aderholt

Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education & Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, &
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mike Simpson

Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, &
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jeff Merkley

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Chellie Pingree

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

October 31, 2025

Re: Focused FY26 Appropriations Request to Sustain OSHA's Safety Infrastructure

Dear Members of Congress,

Thank you for your continued leadership on prioritizing worker safety and health. We look forward to swift reconciliation of the House and Senate FY26 appropriations bills that ensure the nation's occupational health and safety infrastructure remains functional and equitable. Below, we provide a brief background, the correct appropriations lanes, and clear, actionable requests.

Background and Appropriations Lanes

The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) is an independent, quasi-judicial body that adjudicates contests of OSHA citations - ensuring due process and predictable enforcement. OSHRC, OSHA, and NIOSH are funded in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (Labor-HHS-Education) bill; the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) is funded in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill.

Our Focused FY26 Requests

- **OSHR (Labor-HHS-Education):** Fund **no less than the agency's FY26 request** (or at least FY25 enacted) to stabilize adjudication capacity. Include language urging: (1) prompt consideration by the Senate of OSHRC Commissioner nominations to maintain a quorum; (2) support for hiring Administrative Law Judges and essential legal/clerical staff; and (3) quarterly reporting on backlog, median case age, and decision timeliness.
- **OSHA (Labor-HHS-Education):** Maintain **no less than FY25 enacted** to avoid cuts to enforcement, standards, compliance assistance, whistleblower, and training grants.
- **Within OSHA, ensure a properly functioning National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety & Health (NACOSH):** Encourage OSHA to (a) convene NACOSH on a regular cadence; (b) publish an annual public workplan and progress report; and (c) prioritize advice on heat illness prevention, psychosocial risks/mental health, protections for vulnerable workers, and whistleblower program effectiveness.
- **NIOSH (Labor-HHS-Education):** Provide **no less than FY25 enacted** (or the Senate mark, if higher) to protect core research and extramural programs (e.g., respirator approval, ERCs, sector research, and Total Worker Health).
- **CSB (Interior):** Reject elimination and fund **no less than FY25 enacted** to sustain investigations and life-saving recommendations. Include direction for quarterly briefings on open investigations, recommendation closures, and staffing.

Why This Matters

A functional system requires: timely adjudication (OSHR), effective and transparent standards and enforcement with expert advisory input (OSHA/NACOSH), science that anticipates emerging risks (NIOSH), and independent root-cause investigations (CSB). These targeted actions keep workers safe, ensure fair process for employers, and deliver predictable, data-driven outcomes.

We respectfully urge adoption of the requests and direction above in FY26.

Sincerely,

Member Organizations of the Workplace EHS Coalition

ABSA International

American Industrial Hygiene Association

Board of Certified Safety Professionals

Board for Global EHS Credentialing

Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Institute of Hazardous Materials Management

International Safety Equipment Association

National Environmental Health Association

National Safety Council
Voluntary Protection Program Association

CC: President Donald J. Trump
Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary Doug Burgum
Senate Majority Leader John Thune
Senate Minority Leader Charles “Chuck” Schumer
House Speaker Michael “Mike” Johnson
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries