February 14, 2022

Delegate C. Todd Gilbert
District 15
Speaker of the House
Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Charniele L. Herring
District 46
Minority Leader
Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Glenn R. Davis Jr.
District 84
Chair, Committee on Education
Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate G. John Avoli
District 20
Vice Chair, Committee on Education
Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Robert D. Orrock Sr.
District 54
Chair, Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Christopher T. Head
District 17
Vice Chair, Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
Virginia House of Delegates

AIHA Support for Senate Bill 161: Heat-Related Illness Prevention for Student Athletes and Coaches

Dear Delegates Gilbert, Herring, Davis, Avoli, Orrock, and Head:

AIHA, the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS), strongly encourages you to swiftly pass Senate Bill 161, which would direct the Department of Education to work with stakeholders, including parents, to develop guidelines that help protect student athletes from heat-related illness, and teach coaches, other students, and parents or guardians how to recognize and respond to heat-related illness.

The bill was recently unanimously passed in the Senate by a vote of 40 to 0, clearly indicating the bipartisan nature of the desire to protect our students. The Fiscal Impact Statement for this bill indicated that the Department of Education would be able to absorb costs associated with this bill with existing resources, meaning that no additional funds would need to be appropriated.

1 https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+sum+SB161&221+sum+SB161
2 https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+vot+SV0146SB0161+SB0161
3 https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+oth+SB161F122+PDF
AIHA urges you to swiftly enact this bill into law, protecting more Virginians from heat-related illness. If you have any questions about AIHA’s support for this bill or other matters, please contact Mark Ames at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Sloan, MBA, FASAE, CAE

AIHA

About AIHA
AIHA is the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety in the workplace and community. Founded in 1939, we support our members with our expertise, networks, comprehensive education programs, and other products and services that help them maintain the highest professional and competency standards. More than half of AIHA’s nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed across the public and private sectors as well as to the communities in which they work. For more information, please visit www.aiha.org.

Cc:
Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi