



April 10, 2017

**Support for H.B. 2010 – Relating to providing workplace safety training information for use in the public school curriculum.**

Dear Chairman Huberty and Vice Chair Bernal:

On behalf of the American Industrial Hygiene Association<sup>®</sup> (AIHA) and the undersigned AIHA Local Sections in Texas, we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2010, as it would help address a critical need in the United States through a voluntary program without creating any mandates on our schools.

A serious problem exists in our country: teens are twice as likely as adults to be injured at work. This, combined with the fact that approximately 80% of teens work before or during their high school years, means that each year nearly 60,000 teens end up in the emergency room as a result of workplace injuries<sup>1</sup>. These injuries are preventable through efforts that include student (employee) education on workplace safety and health. Your bill represents a positive step in this direction, and would help reduce these injuries by encouraging school districts to develop a workplace safety program that could be included in a public school's curriculum.

We share your concern with school student workplace safety, and rather than spend limited resources to create a new program, school districts may wish to use existing resources, such as the *Youth@Work–Talking Safety* curriculum developed specifically for Texas schools and the *Safety Matters* health and safety program, which was developed by subject matter experts from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and AIHA. This program is 100% free, voluntary, and no special training is needed to deliver it. Additional information on the *Safety Matters* program can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/safetymatters/>. Information on the *Youth@Work–Talking Safety* curriculum, which includes course materials for eleven 45-minute sessions, can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/talkingsafety/states/tx/2015-158/default.html>.

AIHA and its Local Sections support the approval of H.B. 2010 by the Public Education Committee and are happy to provide witness testimony. We hope to see the bill enacted into law before the State Legislature adjourns this year. We look forward to working with you to help protect the health and safety of students and—more broadly—all workers. Please feel free to contact Mark Ames, AIHA's Director of Government Relations, at [mames@aiha.org](mailto:mames@aiha.org) or (703) 846-0730.

Founded in 1939, AIHA is the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. AIHA's 8,500 members play a crucial role on the front line of worker health and safety every day. Our members represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government and academia.

Sincerely,  
American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: "Safety Matters," <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/safetymatters/>.

Alamo Local Section  
Gulf Coast Local Section  
North Texas American Industrial Hygiene Association  
Sabine Neches  
Texas Coastal Bend Local Section  
Texas Hill Country Local Section

Cc:  
Members of the Texas House Public Education Committee  
Representative Greg Bonnen (R-24)