



Testimony on Behalf of the
American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA)

Before the
Michigan House Committee on Education

In Support of House Bill 4282

May 7, 2019

Representative Pamela Hornberger
Chair, Committee on Education
Michigan House of Representatives

Representative Darrin Camilleri
Minority Vice-Chair, Committee on Education
Michigan House of Representatives

Representative Brad Paquette
Majority Vice-Chair, Committee on Education
Michigan House of Representatives

Dear Chairwoman Hornberger, Vice-Chairs Paquette and Camilleri, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Oliveri, and I am an Assistant Professor in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Michigan State University. I earned my PhD in toxicology and environmental health from Duke University before moving to Michigan to pursue my Master of Public Health degree in industrial hygiene at the University of Michigan and subsequently beginning my current position at MSU. There, my colleagues and I run a public health surveillance program that tracks occupational injuries, illnesses, and deaths across the state.

The American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) lends its support for House Bill 4282 and encourages the Committee on Education to approve this bill, as it would increase the knowledge and skills of young workers, leading to a safer workplace for themselves and other workers. HB 4282 would do this by allowing high school students to meet their health education requirements by completing a 30-hour educational training course for general industry or construction authorized by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Every minute, a worker, age 15 – 25, is injured on the job. Every day, a young worker loses their life as a result of a workplace incident. Additional training of young workers is needed³.

Completing an OSHA 30-hour training course would provide significant, tangible, lasting benefits to both students and their employers. OSHA 30-hour training equips workers with an in-depth understanding of how to identify, avoid, and control hazards that they may encounter on the job¹. In addition, students who complete the 30-hour training receive an employer-recognized card as proof of their achievement². AIHA supports the training that would be allowed by this bill because we understand the importance of worker health and safety, and believe that additional training is needed for young workers in no small part because every minute, a young worker, age 15 – 25 is injured on the job, and every day, a young worker loses their life as a result of a workplace incident.

Background on AIHA

Founded 80 years ago, AIHA is a nonprofit organization serving professionals dedicated to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, control, and confirmation of environmental stressors in or arising

¹ For additional information on the OSHA 30-hour training programs for construction and general industry, please visit <https://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/construction/> and <https://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/generalindustry/>.

² For additional information on the OSHA training cards, please visit <https://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/cardhierarchy.html>

³ For additional information on young worker injuries, illnesses, and fatalities, please visit <https://mysafesummerjob.org/>

from the workplace that may result in injury, illness, impairment, or affect the well-being of workers and members of the community. AIHA provides comprehensive education programs and other products and services that help its members maintain the highest professional standards.

More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIHs) and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed in the industrial, consulting, academic, and government sectors. AIHA has approximately 200 members and two Local Sections in Michigan. Collectively, AIHA's members impact millions of American workers.

AIHA has been a leading voice in support of young worker health and safety for many years, working with OSHA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and others to support the *Youth@Work – Talking Safety* model curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12, and the Safety Matters program³.

Conclusion and Next Steps

House Bill 4282 represents an important step forward that has many benefits for young workers, their employers, and the broader workforce. AIHA encourages the Committee to approve this bill and looks forward to working with you on this, and related matters. Please feel free to contact Mark Ames, AIHA's Director of Government Relations at mames@aiha.org and (703) 846-0730.

³ For additional information on AIHA's young worker health and safety initiatives, please visit <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/SafetyMattersCenter/Pages/default.aspx>