



**HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD**

**Written Testimony of Lindsay Cook, CIH, CSP, FAIHA  
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**Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United State House of Representatives**

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Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, and Members of the Subcommittee, good morning. My name is Lindsay Cook. I am a Certified Industrial Hygienist, Certified Safety Professional, and President of AIHA<sup>1</sup>. Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to submit this testimony. **AIHA urges you to support Fiscal Year 2022 funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at a minimum of \$694.7 million and funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at a minimum of \$375 million.**

Founded in 1939, AIHA is the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) in the workplace and community. Our members work in the public and private sectors in every industry and have been on the frontlines throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.aiha.org/>

protecting workers, their communities, and helping schools and businesses reopen quickly. In response to the need to protect workers and other building occupants as businesses and schools reopened, AIHA rapidly developed Back to Work Safely guidance documents.<sup>2</sup> Covering 27 different workplace sectors and available at no charge, in both English and Spanish, these documents have been downloaded more than 1.3 million times, supported by celebrity entrepreneur Mark Cuban, and referenced by the CDC, OSHA, and States throughout the country.

The Federal government is a key partner in AIHA's ongoing mission to protect workers and their communities. As the nation emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic and prepares for a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure, Congressional funding for worker health and safety agencies and programs takes on added importance. While many Federal programs touch on worker health and safety, my remarks will focus on two key agencies, which serve as leaders to many others: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

**AIHA urges you to support Fiscal Year 2022 funding for OSHA at a minimum of \$694.7 million and funding for NIOSH at a minimum of \$375 million.**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.backtoworksafely.org/>

## **OSHA is a Leader in Worker Health and Safety**

OSHA protects workers by establishing and enforcing standards, guidance, training, and conducting educational outreach to employers and workers. The agency works collaboratively with stakeholders, such as AIHA to help reach its target audiences and collect expert feedback. AIHA works closely with OSHA as a member of the OSHA Alliance and OSHA Ambassador programs<sup>3</sup> on a number of key initiatives, including Safe + Sound Week<sup>4</sup>, which encourages businesses to implement workplace health and safety programs, the Safe Summer Jobs Campaign for younger workers<sup>5</sup>, the Construction Roundtable<sup>6</sup>, the National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction<sup>7</sup>, and many more.

AIHA is particularly supportive of OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs<sup>8</sup>, which recognizes employers and employees who implement effective workplace health and safety programs, the Susan Harwood Training Grants Program<sup>9</sup>, which provides competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to train workers and employers on how to recognize, avoid, and mitigate workplace health and safety hazards, and OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program<sup>10</sup>, which provides small and medium-sized businesses

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/alliances>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/youth/summerjobs/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/alliances/roundtables/roundtables-construction>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/stop-falls-stand-down>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/vpp>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/harwoodgrants>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/consultation>

with confidential, no-cost health and safety services, with a focus on high-hazard industries.

Continued Congressional support for OSHA's comprehensive outreach activities is critical now and into the future. **AIHA respectfully urges Congress to provide FY 2022 funding for OSHA at a minimum of \$694.7.**

### **NIOSH: A Leader in Worker Health and Safety Research and Knowledge Transfer**

No single Federal agency is as focused as NIOSH on worker health and safety research, as evidenced by their mission, "To develop new knowledge in the field of occupational safety and health and to transfer that knowledge into practice."<sup>11</sup> AIHA is a strong supporter of NIOSH and is deeply involved in its activities. I personally serve as the liaison between AIHA and NIOSH, working to coordinate and oversee many of these joint collaborations, and can see first-hand, the enormous impact that NIOSH has on worker health and safety. AIHA is a member of NIOSH's Total Worker Health® Affiliate Program,<sup>12</sup> which provides an innovative framework for holistically improving worker health, safety, and well-being, and reducing the costs of injuries and illnesses to workers and businesses. AIHA members also serve on NIOSH's National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Councils,<sup>13</sup> which drive innovative research,

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/about/default.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/twh/default.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nora/default.html>

leading to improved workplace health and safety practices, reducing workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths.

NIOSH also plays a key role in the OEHS professional pipeline through its Education and Research Centers (ERCs).<sup>14</sup> Located at universities throughout the United States, ERCs directly serve the OEHS community by conducting outreach, providing state-of-the-art undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate training, continuing education and research. ERCs also indirectly serve all workers by striving to ensure the nation has an adequate supply of OEHS professionals. Many AIHA members have and continue to benefit from the world class services provided by the ERCs. As I started my career, I was a recipient of a NIOSH education grant, as were many of my peers, and throughout my career I have relied on the expertise and outreach of NIOSH in my work to improve health and safety in our nation's workplaces.

**To support the critical services that NIOSH provides, AIHA urges you to provide FY 2022 funding for NIOSH at a minimum of \$375 million.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. AIHA looks forward to working with you to protect all workers and their communities from occupational hazards. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/ercportfolio.html>