



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

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June 17, 2020

State Representative Danielle Friel Otten
District 155
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Support and Recommended Improvements for LRPO Preliminary Draft 1 – Safe Patient Handling

Dear Representative Otten:

AIHA, representing approximately 8,500 occupational health and safety professionals, including more than 360 in Pennsylvania with four Local Sections throughout the State, supports your draft bill on safe patient handling and offers the following set of recommendations, which we believe will help strengthen the legislation by clarifying its focus on protecting patients and workers.

- Section 8202(b)(3): Add “health and” after “occupational” so that it reads “Individuals who have expertise in disciplines related to health care and occupational health and safety.”
- Section 8203(c)(1): Add “These individuals should have the ability to anticipate, recognize, evaluate and control ergonomic risks.”

Background on AIHA

AIHA is a professional association for occupational health and safety science professionals who are committed to preserving and ensuring health and safety in the workplace and community. Founded in 1939, we support our members with our expertise, network, comprehensive education programs and other products and services that help them maintain the highest professional standards. More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists, and many hold other professional designations. AIHA has more than 360 members in Pennsylvania, and four Local Sections located throughout the State. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed in the industrial, consulting, academic and government sectors. For information visit, please visit www.aiha.org.

Next Actions

On behalf of AIHA, I hope you find value in these recommendations. AIHA also has a Position Statement entitled “Safe Handling and Mobility of Patients and Residents” that you may be interested in, as it provides useful background information on the issue of safe patient handling and important recommendations for employers, workers, and policymakers. You may find ideas for future legislation in that document, which can be found at (PDF) <https://bit.ly/2AL0HJO>.

AIHA looks forward to working with you to help protect the health and safety of patients and workers. Please feel free to reach out to Mark Ames, AIHA’s director of government relations, at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Cook', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lindsay Cook, CIH, CSP, FAIHA
President
AIHA