March 20, 2020

Speaker Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)
Republican Leader Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate U.S. Senate

Support for the COVID-19 Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2020 in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA®) urges you to include the text of the COVID—19 Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2020 (H.R.6139) in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Adding in this text would require the U.S. Secretary of Labor to issue an emergency temporary standard to protect employees of healthcare sector employers and employees in other sectors whom the CDC or OSHA identifies as having an elevated risk of exposure to COVID-19. The emergency temporary standard would be required to be issued within one month of the bill being enacted into law. The bill would also require the Secretary to begin work on a permanent standard after the emergency standard is issued.

Health care workers and industrial hygienists are among the many workers on the front lines, playing critical roles in combating this global pandemic.

Background on AIHA
Founded 81 years ago, AIHA is a nonprofit organization serving professionals dedicated to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, control, and confirmation of environmental stressors in or arising from the workplace that may result in injury, illness, impairment, or affect the well-being of workers and members of the community.
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 Local Sections located throughout the United States, including in Virginia and North Carolina. Collectively, AIHA’s members impact millions of American workers.

AIHA provides comprehensive education programs and other products and services that help its members maintain the highest professional standards. We maintain more than 50 volunteer groups and have partnership agreements with governmental and nongovernmental organizations representing the full spectrum of worker health and safety vocations. AIHA also produces several award-winning publications, including the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* (JOEH). The JOEH, which is jointly published by AIHA and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH®), is a peer-reviewed publication that provides a written medium for the communication of ideas, methods, processes and research in the areas of occupational, industrial and environmental hygiene; exposure assessment; engineering controls; occupational and environmental epidemiology, medicine, and toxicology; ergonomics; and other related disciplines.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

AIHA urges Congress to include the text of the COVID—19 Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2020 (H.R.6139) in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Working together, we can halt the spread of this pandemic, protecting workers and their communities. For additional information, please contact Mark Ames at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Respectfully,

Kathleen S. Murphy, CIH
President
AIHA