



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

May 9, 2023

AIHA Recommendations on Improvements to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
1st District of Iowa
United States House of Representatives

Dear Representative Miller-Meeks:

AIHA, the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS), appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on possible improvements to the CDC. We hope you find our feedback useful and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Our comments will specifically focus on the importance of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a core Federal agency that plays a vital role in protecting the health and safety of our nation's 160 million workers.

NIOSH is the only Federal agency dedicated to researching and preventing workplace-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths, which cost our nation an estimated \$3 billion per week¹.

In line with its research-focused mission, NIOSH actively partners with other employers, employees, nonprofit organizations, such as AIHA, and other agencies to transform research findings into practical solutions. This cooperative approach allows for tailored and innovative responses to workplace hazards, which benefits businesses and workers alike.

¹ <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/>

NIOSH supports essential programs, including the Education and Research Centers (ERCs), which help educate and train the next generation of occupational safety and health professionals.

Your District is home to two of NIOSH's gems: The Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety, and the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, both located at the University of Iowa.

The Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety² is focused on addressing the “dual problems in Federal Region VII [Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska]: higher than US-average rates of occupational disease and injury and shortages of trained OHS [occupational health and safety] professionals.”³

Part of NIOSH's Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AgFF) Program, the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health⁴ “is a nationally recognized public health resource that develops and implements programs of research, intervention, translation, education, and outreach with the long-term goal of preventing occupational injury and illness among agricultural workers and their families.”⁵

In addition to these centers, NIOSH also supports the Total Worker Health (TWH) Program, which supports an innovative approach to reducing work-related injuries and illnesses by focusing on worker well-being⁶. Additionally, NIOSH coordinates the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) councils, which bring stakeholders together to identify occupational safety and health research objectives⁷.

We know you understand the importance of promoting economic growth, business development, and a strong workforce. By increasing support for NIOSH and its programs, we can reduce the number of workplace injuries and illnesses, improve working conditions, and provide valuable occupational safety and health services to our nation's businesses and workers. This, in turn, will lead to increased productivity, reduced healthcare costs, and a stronger economy.

We share the common goal of ensuring that all occupations are as safe as possible through research, education, and training. We respectfully urge you to support NIOSH and its critical programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response and your support for NIOSH and the vital work they do to protect our nation's workers. If you have

² <https://heartland.public-health.uiowa.edu/>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/ercportfolio.html>

⁴ <https://gpcah.public-health.uiowa.edu/>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/agctrhom.html>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/default.html>

⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/nora/councils/const/default.html>

any questions about our feedback or other issues related to occupational and environmental health and safety, please contact me at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ames', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Ames
Director, Government Relations
AIHA

About AIHA

AIHA is the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety in the workplace and community. Founded in 1939, we support our members with our expertise, networks, comprehensive education programs, and other products and services that help them maintain the highest professional and competency standards. More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists, and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed across the public and private sectors as well as to the communities in which they work. For more information, please visit <https://www.aiha.org/>.