



March 20, 2018

Support for CARA 2.0 Act of 2018 (S.2456)

AIHA Urges Continued Action to Protect First Responders and Others from Opioid Exposure

Hon. Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations
Committee
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services,
Education and Related
Agencies

Hon. Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Committee

Hon. Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Committee
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services,
Education and Related
Agencies

Dear Senators:

The opioid epidemic has claimed the lives of 64,000 Americans in 2016 alone, and continues to spread like a cancer throughout our nation. First responders are on the front lines of this crisis every day, risking becoming overdosed themselves or suffering lesser, but no less serious impairment. Making matters worse, those who are exposed to opioids, such as fentanyl, are at risk of becoming addicted themselves.

It is for these reasons that the American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) strongly supports the language in Section 4 of the CARA 2.0 Act of 2018 (S.2456) concerning training and resources for first responders to help protect them from exposure to fentanyl and other illicit drugs, and how to respond if exposure does occur.

As you continue crafting funding and authorizing bills, AIHA urges you to build upon this language to help ensure that opioid exposure protection training and related resources are provided to the many other workers who are at risk of exposure. Sadly, no workplace is exempt from this scourge; as such, we must work together to protect first responders and all workers. It is only through our collective, comprehensive efforts that this epidemic will be eliminated. AIHA stands with you as a ready partner in this endeavor, and is engaging with stakeholders throughout the nation. Please feel free to contact me at mames@aiha.org or 703-846-0730.

Founded in 1939, AIHA is the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. AIHA and our members have a reach that extends to millions of people, and we have solid credibility that is built from 79 years of service to the occupational and environmental health and safety community. Specifically, AIHA has 8,500 members who represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government, and academia. We have 68 Local Sections that meet regularly throughout the United States, and more than 50 volunteer groups. We also have formal and informal partnership agreements with governmental and nongovernmental organizations that represent the full spectrum of worker health and safety vocations. In addition, we have several award-winning publications, a strong social media presence and capabilities, and we host conferences where thought leaders from a variety of industries or who specialize in select health and safety topics, such as personal protective equipment,

ventilation, and other exposure control methods, gather to share new information and answer practical questions. For additional information, please visit www.aiha.org.

Sincerely,



Mark Ames
Director of Government Relations
AIHA

Cc:

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Sen. Tammy Baldwin
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