

Intersociety Forum

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders

Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Critical Role of NIOSH in Advancing Workplace Safety and Economic Competitiveness

Dear Senator Cassidy and Senator Sanders,

On behalf of the Intersociety Forum (ISF), we want to express our deep concern regarding actions taken to restructure the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the resulting impact on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The loss of personnel and resources at NIOSH poses a serious threat to workplace safety research, evidence-based interventions and the long-term health and well-being of our nation's workforce. These cuts also jeopardize business performance by increasing operational risks, reducing productivity and driving up healthcare costs associated with preventable workplace injuries and exposures — ultimately threatening profitability and the competitiveness of American industry.

The ISF is a coalition of leading safety and health organizations dedicated to safeguarding workers while demonstrating that safety practices create a strategic advantage for businesses. The ISF works to advance policies that support both workforce well-being and national economic strength.

Despite technological and procedural advancements, workplace injury and fatality rates remain unacceptably high. To address this, the ISF released a report identifying three core principles of effective occupational environmental health and safety (EHS):

1. **Business-Driven Practice** – Emphasizing safety standards that not only protect workers but also drive business success.
2. **Beyond Compliance** – Encouraging organizations to embed proactive, risk-based safety strategies through modern safety and health management systems.
3. **Leading Indicators** – Promoting the use of predictive data to prevent injuries and foster continuous improvement.

NIOSH plays a central role in supporting these principles through its research, guidance and support of innovative practices. Weakening NIOSH undermines not only the science of occupational EHS but also the competitive edge American businesses gain through safe, resilient operations.

As industries evolve and new risks emerge — from AI-driven technologies to climate-related hazards — the need for evidence-based occupational EHS research has never been greater. The work done by NIOSH's relatively small but expert staff protects millions of Americans in critical roles — including firefighters, healthcare providers, construction workers and manufacturing professionals. Without NIOSH, there is no final line of defense for these workers or the communities that rely on them. We respectfully

urge the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to fully consider the long-term implications of these cuts and take action to preserve NIOSH's essential mission.

Worker safety is not a partisan issue — it is a foundational element of economic growth, operational excellence and national prosperity. We appreciate your leadership and stand ready to support efforts that protect and strengthen NIOSH for the benefit of workers and employers across the country.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members of the Intersociety Forum (ISF):

- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
- ABSA International
- Agricultural Safety & Health Council of America (ASCHA)
- American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN)
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
- American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH)
- American Hazardous Materials Professionals (AHMP)
- American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
- American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)
- American Public Health Association (Occupational Health and Safety Section)
- Board for Global EHS Credentialing
- Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP)
- Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals (BCRSP)
- Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA)
- The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR)
- Health Physics Society (HPS)
- Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)
- International System Safety Society (ISSS)
- Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM)
- International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA)
- Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
- National Association for EHS & Sustainability Management (NAEM)
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- National Safety Council (NSC)
- National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
- UL Standards & Engagement
- Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA)