

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC

[[DATE]]

President Donald J. Trump  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20201

**RE: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**

Dear President Trump and Secretary Kennedy:

We urge you reverse the termination decisions at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The work of these employees and contractors plays a critical role in worker safety and has enormous economic impacts in communities across the country. If this decision stands, millions of workers across the country will face greater risks to job injury, illness, and death – including firefighters whom NIOSH plays a critical role in protecting.

NIOSH's work and legacy spans decades. In the 1970s, NIOSH issued its first recommendations on mitigating heat exposure in the workplace. In the 1980s, NIOSH led research on preventing occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens and respiratory hazards. And in the 2000s, NIOSH played an important role in supporting programs to compensate civilian Cold War veterans who were sickened by exposure making nuclear weapons; rapidly mobilized to protect workers from anthrax attacks; provided direct technical assistance to first responders after the 9/11 attacks; and still administers the World Trade Center Health Program which provides compensation and medical programs for first responders, recovery workers, and survivors. NIOSH's 1,500 employees and contractors whose positions have been terminated are crucial to this work.

Today, NIOSH's vital work is carried out at laboratories and offices across the country, each of which supports local and state economies through jobs, research funding, and contracts:

- **Atlanta, GA:** 140 positions eliminated, \$19.5M statewide economic impact in FY24
- **Cincinnati, OH:** 423 positions eliminated, \$101.5M statewide economic impact in FY24
- **Denver, CO:** 15 positions eliminated, \$7.0M statewide economic impact in FY24
- **Morgantown, WV:** 403 positions eliminated, \$63.1M statewide economic impact in FY24
- **Pittsburgh, PA:** 402 positions eliminated, \$52.7 million economic impact in FY24

- **Spokane, WA:** 82 positions eliminated, \$19.0 million statewide economic impact in FY24
- **Washington, DC:** 48 positions eliminated, \$5.9M districtwide economic impact in FY24

Every day, NIOSH employees and contractors carry out critical work to protect workers nationwide. Their responsibilities range from reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals, mine dangers, and avian flu, to investigating firefighters' line-of-duty deaths and identifying links between firefighting and cancer. Not only will these terminations impact safety – they will send ripple effects through universities, medical research centers, PPE manufacturers, large and small businesses, and local communities.

NIOSH's work, mission, and employees are vital to the national cause of advancing occupational health and safety. NIOSH research and knowledge generation prevents injuries, saves lives, and lowers healthcare and workforce costs. As such, we urge the restoration of NIOSH's important work, and call for the immediate reversal of these terminations and reinstatement of all employees and contractors who have been impacted.

[[CLOSING]]

[[SIGNATURES]]