

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC

April 4, 2025

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 to 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.¹

NIOSH's work and legacy spans decades. In the 1970s, NIOSH issued its first recommendations on mitigating heat exposure in the workplace². In the 1980s, NIOSH led research on preventing occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens and respiratory hazards.³ And in the 2000s, NIOSH played an important role in supporting programs to compensate civilian Cold War veterans sickened while making nuclear weapons;³ rapidly mobilized to protect workers from anthrax attacks;⁴ 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 to first responders, recovery workers, and survivors.³ NIOSH's 1,500 employees and contractors whose positions have been terminated are crucial to this work.⁵

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, \$23M statewide economic impact in FY24⁵
- **Cincinnati, OH:** 423 positions eliminated, \$108M statewide economic impact in FY24⁵
- **Denver, CO:** 15 positions eliminated, \$7M statewide economic impact in FY24⁵
- **Morgantown, WV:** 403 positions eliminated, \$72M statewide economic impact in FY24⁵
- **Pittsburgh, PA:** 402 positions eliminated, \$53M statewide economic impact in FY24⁵

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/centers/firefighter-safety-and-health.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/72-10269>

³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7144423>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2002-142>

⁵ Internal NIOSH data

- **Spokane, WA:** 82 positions eliminated, \$27M statewide economic impact in FY24⁵
- **Washington, DC:** 48 positions eliminated, \$8M districtwide economic impact in FY24⁵

Every day, NIOSH employees and contractors carry out critical work to protect workers nationwide. Their responsibilities range from reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals⁶, mine dangers⁷, and avian flu⁸, to investigating firefighters' line-of-duty deaths and identifying links between firefighting and cancer.¹ Not only will these terminations impact safety – they will have ripple effects across universities⁹, PPE manufacturers,¹⁰ large and small businesses, and local communities.

NIOSH's work, mission, and employees and contractors 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 reinstatement of all employees and contractors who have been impacted.

Sincerely,



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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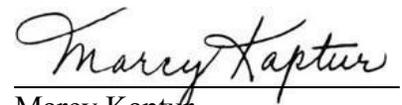
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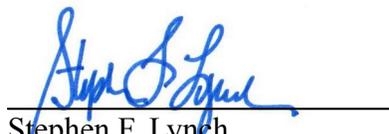
¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/centers/firefighter-safety-and-health.html>
⁵ Internal NIOSH data
⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg>
⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/index.html>
⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/avian-flu/about/index.html>
⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/extramural-programs/php/about/ercs.html>
¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/research-programs/portfolio/ppt.html>

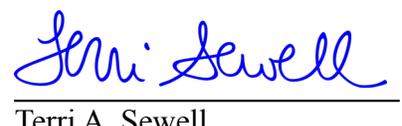

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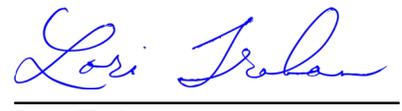

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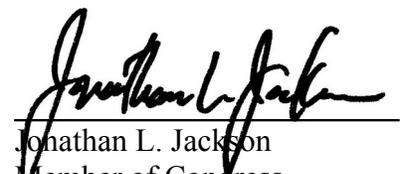

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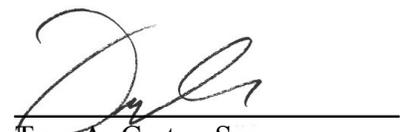

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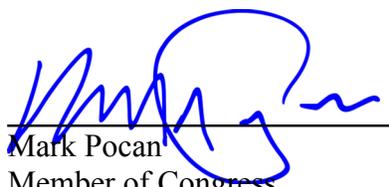

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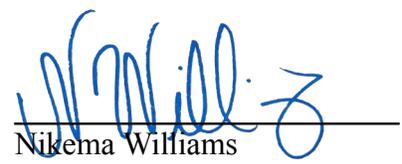

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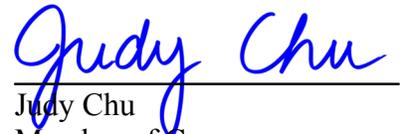

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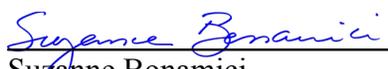

Judy Chu
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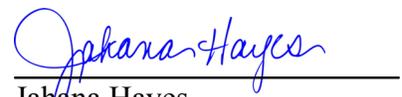

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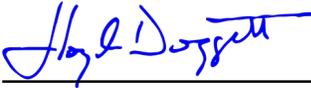
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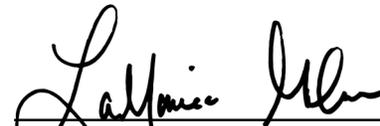
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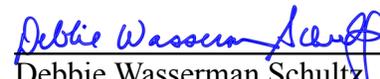
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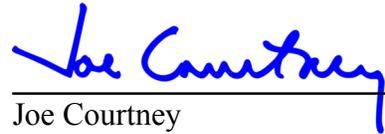
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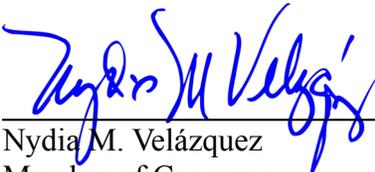
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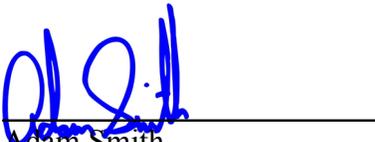
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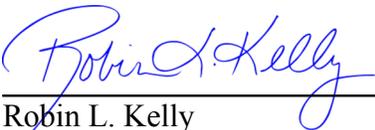
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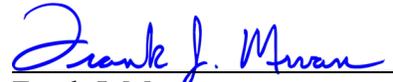
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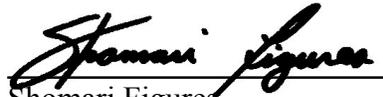
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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