

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,



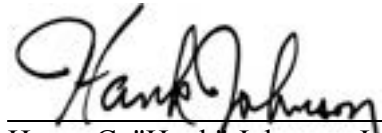
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



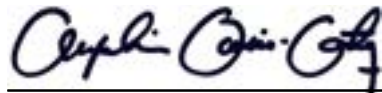
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



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



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

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

⁵ Internal NIOSH data


⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg>

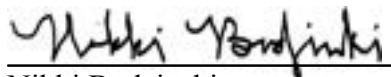
⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/index.html>

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/avian-flu/about/index.html>


⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/extramural-programs/php/about/ercs.html>

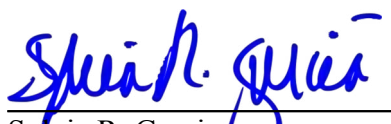
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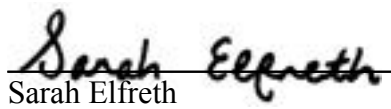

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress

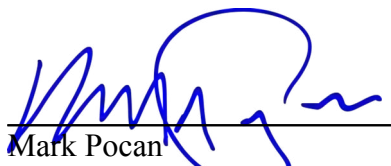

Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress

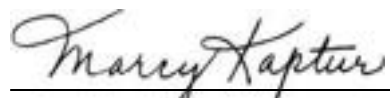

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
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Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress

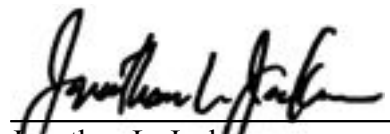

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

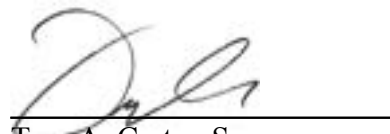

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

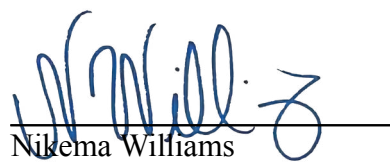

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress


Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress


Lori Trahan
Member of Congress


Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress


Froy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress


Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

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

⁵ Internal NIOSH data

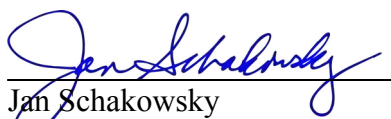
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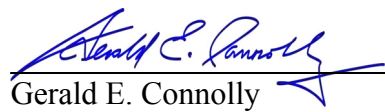
⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/index.html>


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>

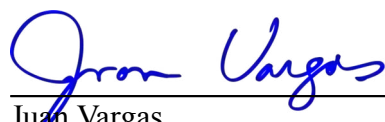

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

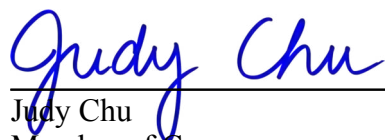

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

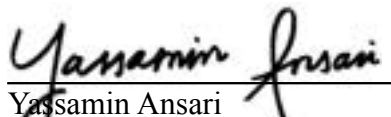

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

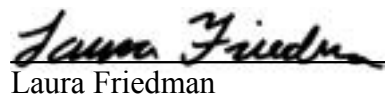

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

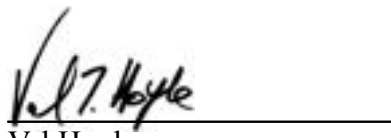

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

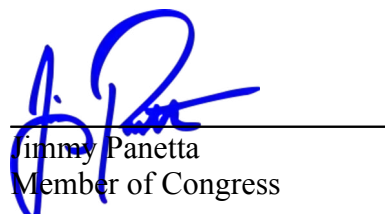

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

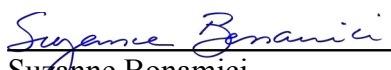

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

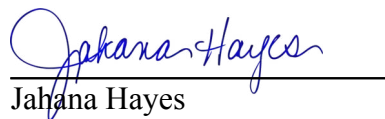

Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress


Laura Friedman
Member of Congress


Val Hoyle
Member of Congress


Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

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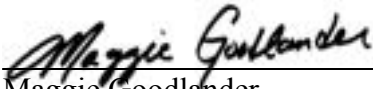
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⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/extramural-programs/php/about/ercs.html>

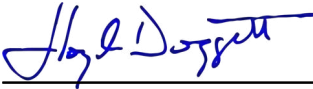
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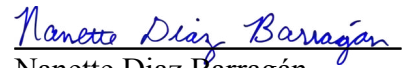
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



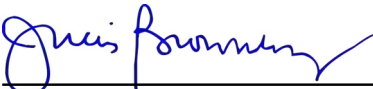
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



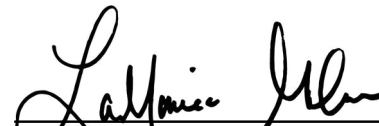
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



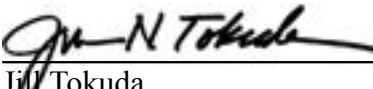
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress



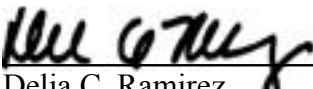
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



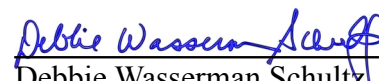
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

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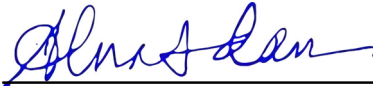
¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/research-programs/portfolio/ppt.html>



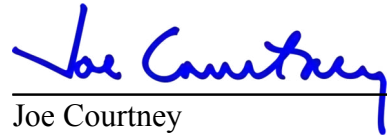
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



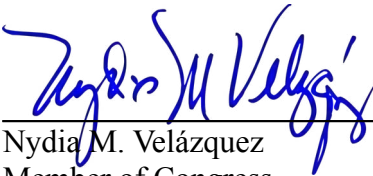
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



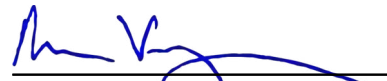
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



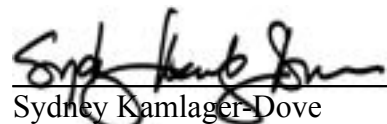
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



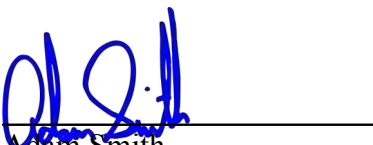
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



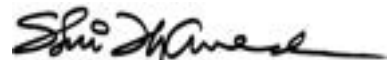
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

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⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/avian-flu/about/index.html>

⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/extramural-programs/php/about/ercs.html>

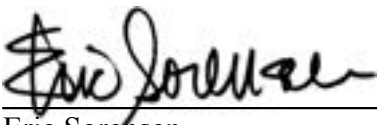
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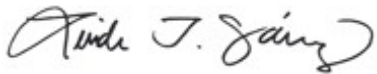
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



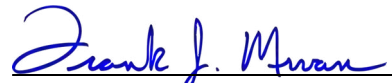
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



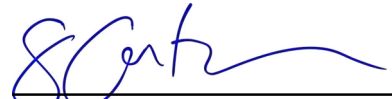
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



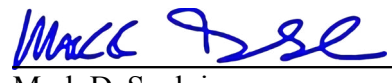
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



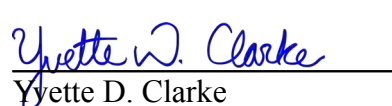
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

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

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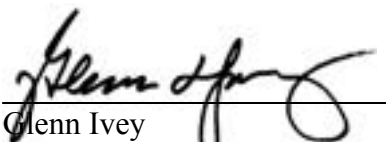
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⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/index.html>


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⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/extramural-programs/php/about/ercs.html>

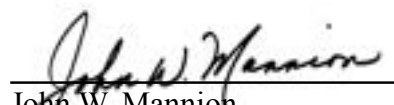
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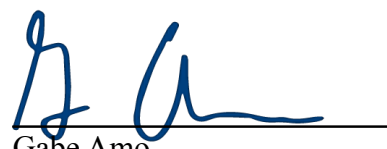
Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress




Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



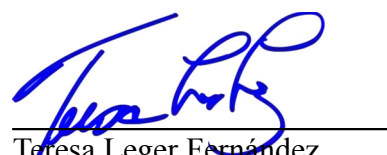
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



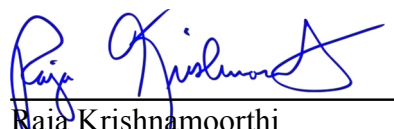
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



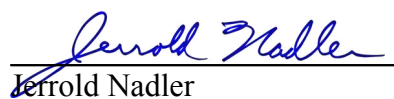
Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



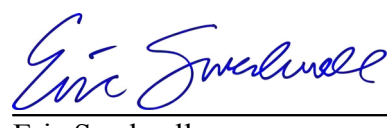
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Josh Riley
Member of Congress




Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



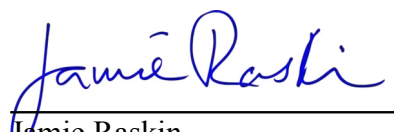
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



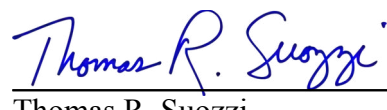
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

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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>

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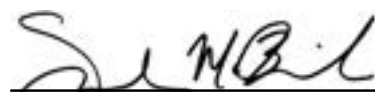
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



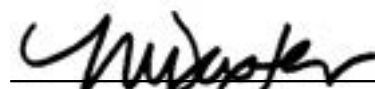
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



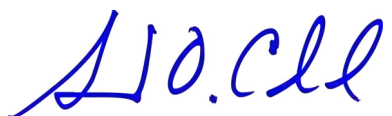
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



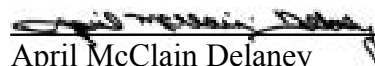
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



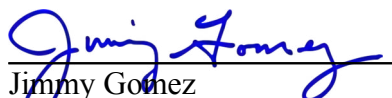
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress

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>

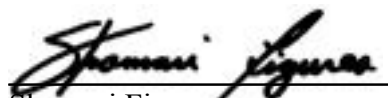
¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/research-programs/portfolio/ppt.html>



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

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

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¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/research-programs/portfolio/ppt.html>