

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

NIOSH's work and legacy spans decades. In the 1970s, NIOSH issued its first recommendations on mitigating heat exposure in the workplace<sup>2</sup>. In the 1980s, NIOSH led research on preventing occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens and respiratory hazards.<sup>3</sup> And in the 2000s, NIOSH played an important role in supporting programs to compensate civilian Cold War veterans sickened while making nuclear weapons;<sup>3</sup> rapidly mobilized to protect workers from anthrax attacks;<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> NIOSH's 1,500 employees and contractors whose positions have been terminated are crucial to this work.<sup>5</sup>

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 FY24<sup>5</sup>
- **Cincinnati, OH:** 423 positions eliminated, \$108M statewide economic impact in FY24<sup>5</sup>
- **Denver, CO:** 15 positions eliminated, \$7M statewide economic impact in FY24<sup>5</sup>
- **Morgantown, WV:** 403 positions eliminated, \$72M statewide economic impact in FY24<sup>5</sup>
- **Pittsburgh, PA:** 402 positions eliminated, \$53M statewide economic impact in FY24<sup>5</sup>

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Internal NIOSH data

- **Spokane, WA:** 82 positions eliminated, \$27M statewide economic impact in FY24<sup>5</sup>
- **Washington, DC:** 48 positions eliminated, \$8M districtwide economic impact in FY24<sup>5</sup>


Every day, NIOSH employees and contractors carry out critical work to protect workers nationwide. Their responsibilities range from reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals<sup>6</sup>, mine dangers<sup>7</sup>, and avian flu<sup>8</sup>, to investigating firefighters' line-of-duty deaths and identifying links between firefighting and cancer.<sup>1</sup> Not only will these terminations impact safety – they will have ripple effects across universities<sup>9</sup>, PPE manufacturers,<sup>10</sup> 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

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

<sup>5</sup> Internal NIOSH data

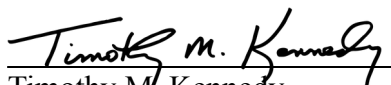
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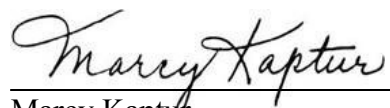
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/index.html>

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


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


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


  
Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress


  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress


  
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress

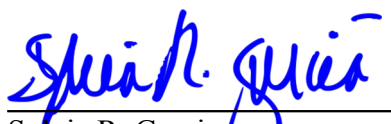
  
Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress


  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

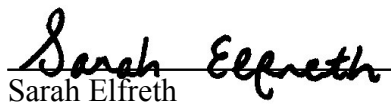
  
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

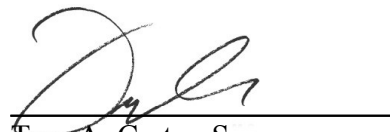
  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

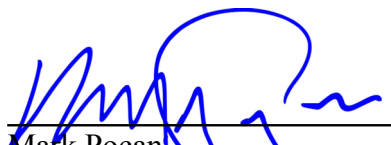
  
Lori Trahan  
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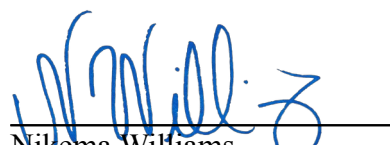
  
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

  
Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

  
Sarah Elfreth  
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Froy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

  
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

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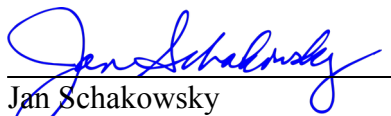
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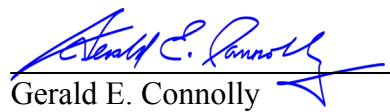
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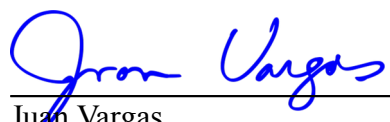
  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress


  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

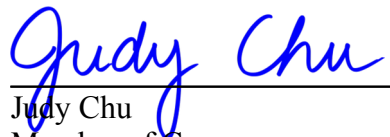
  
Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

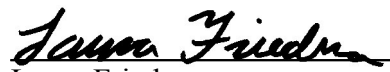
  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress


  
Juan Vargas  
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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

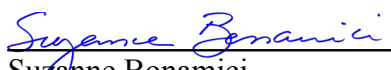
  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

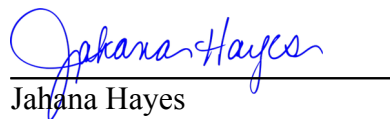
  
Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress

  
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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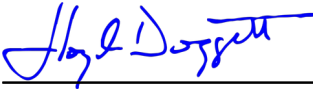
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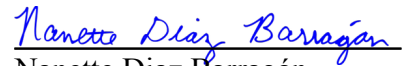
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



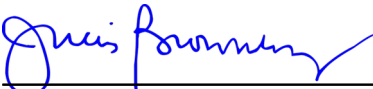
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



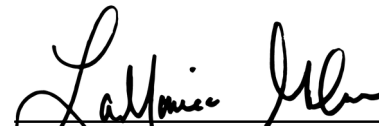
Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



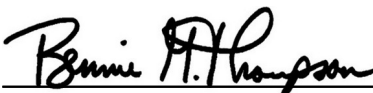
LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Jim 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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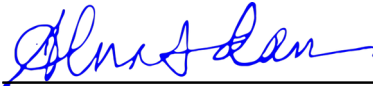
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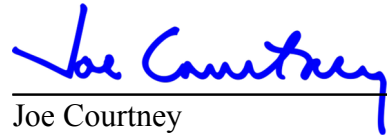
Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



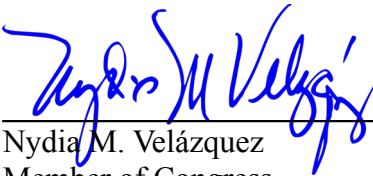
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



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



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



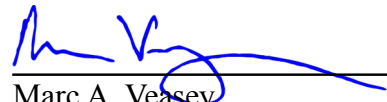
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



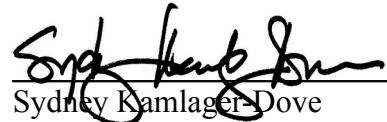
Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



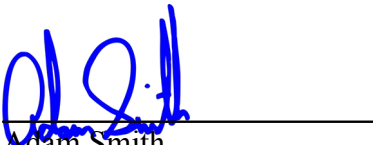
Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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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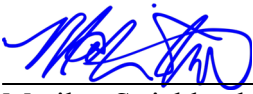
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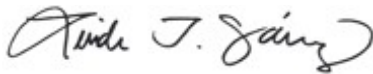
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



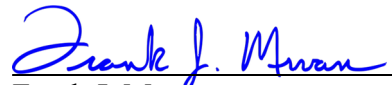
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



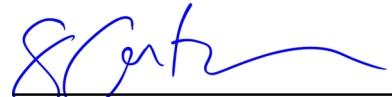
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



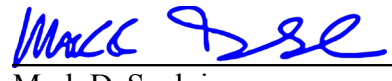
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



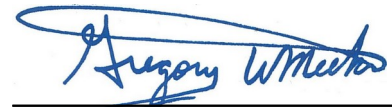
Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



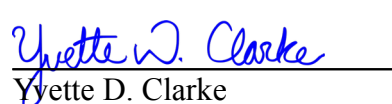
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

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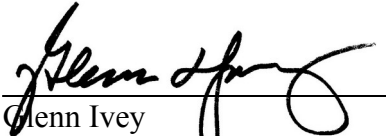
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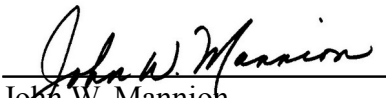
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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress




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John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress




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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



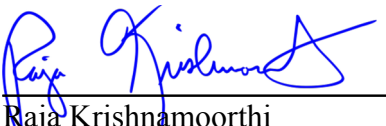
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress




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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



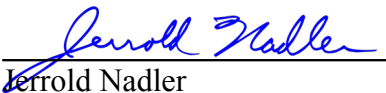
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



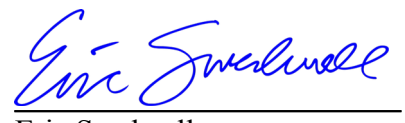
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Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



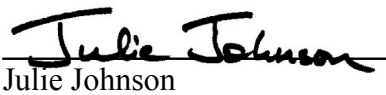
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



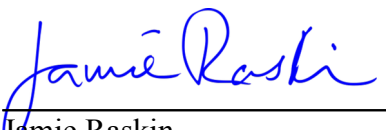
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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



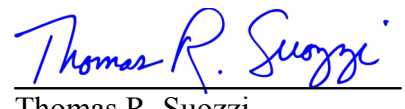
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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress




Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



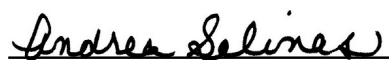
Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



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



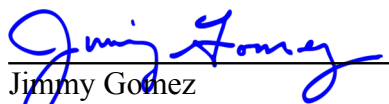
Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

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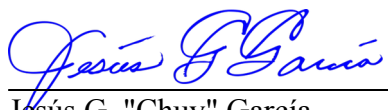
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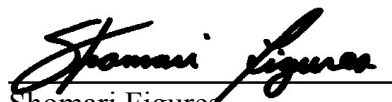
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



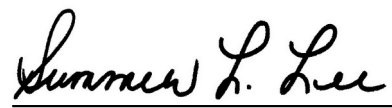
Shomari Figures  
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress

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

<sup>5</sup> Internal NIOSH data

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg>

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

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

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

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