

[Your Name, MD, MPH, FACOEM (if applicable)]

[Your Title/Position]

[Institution or Practice Name]

[Street Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

The Honorable [Full Name]

[U.S. Senate / House of Representatives]

[Office Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

RE: Opposition to the HHS Restructuring and its Impact on Occupational and Environmental Health

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name]:

As a health care provider of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) and a constituent in your district/state, I write to express my strong opposition to the restructuring at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This restructuring threatens to undermine critical programs that safeguard workers' health and the broader public from occupational and environmental hazards.

In particular, I am deeply concerned that these changes could negatively impact funding for educational and training programs that develop the next generation of Specialists in Occupational and Environmental Health (SOEH) including OEM physicians, industrial hygienists, toxicologists, and public health experts. Programs supported through HHS, such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Education and Research Centers (ERCs) and related workforce development initiatives, are essential for training professionals equipped to address emerging threats in workplace and environmental health.

At a time when the country faces increasing risks from industrial exposures, climate-driven disasters, and public health emergencies, it is shortsighted and dangerous to jeopardize these pipelines of experts. Without continued and stable investment in these programs, we face a growing shortage of qualified professionals who can respond to complex environmental exposures, ensure worker safety, and promote long-term public health and national security.

Any restructuring that reduces visibility, autonomy, or funding for these programs puts American workers and communities at risk. OEM physicians like myself rely on the infrastructure and collaboration provided by HHS and its sub-agencies to deliver informed care and contribute to national readiness and resilience.

I respectfully urge you to:

- Oppose any restructuring that diminishes the role of occupational and environmental health within HHS.
- Protect and expand funding for education and training programs for SOEH professionals, including NIOSH ERCs.
- Ensure that any structural changes at HHS are developed transparently, with expert input from physicians and scientists in occupational and environmental health. The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is a crucial partner.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued support of programs that protect worker health and strengthen our public health workforce. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further or provide testimony if needed.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name, Degrees]

[Your Practice / Institution]

[City, State]

[Optional: Your ACOEM Membership or Affiliation]