

decentralized nature and diverse structure, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector lags other industries in reducing the toll of work-related injuries and illnesses.

Directed by Congress, NIOSH established Centers for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education and Prevention in 1990 in response to evidence that agricultural workers were suffering higher rates of injury and illness than other U.S. workers. Today, the initiative includes nine regional centers, and one national center to address children's farm safety. These centers have conducted research leading to evidence-based standards that save lives. It is the only substantive federal effort to ensure safe working conditions for workers in one of our nation's most vital production sectors.

With an aging occupational safety and health workforce, ERCs are essential for training the next generation of professionals. The Centers establish academic, labor and industry research partnerships to achieve these goals. Currently, the ERCs are responsible for supplying many of the country's occupational safety and health graduates who will go on to fill professional roles.

NIOSH supports education and research in occupational health through academic degree programs and research opportunities. The National Occupational Research Agenda continues to protect American workers through its work-related illness and injury research, and we urge that funding for this research continue. The TWH approach integrates workplace interventions that protect safety and health with activities that advance the overall well-being of workers.

In order to ensure the health and safety of our nation's workers, we respectfully request that you, at a minimum, fund OSHA at \$677.4 million and NIOSH at a minimum of \$354.8 million. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

ABSA International
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (ABOHN)
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
Board of Certified Safety Professionals
Board for Global EHS Credentialing (BCG)
Campbell Institute
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
National Environmental Health Association
National Safety Council
ORCHSE Strategies, LLC
Safe States Alliance