

AOHP Response to OSHA Ergonomics Announcement
April 2002

AOHP has consistently supported OSHA's effort to develop an ergonomic standard. Our support of this effort was demonstrated through testimony at the initial ergonomic hearings, requesting to testify at the national forums last summer and collaborating with AAOHN by submitting joint comments to OSHA in August 2001.

As occupational health professionals in healthcare we are pleased to see OSHA taking a strong stand on the enforcement of ergonomic issues in the workplace. We support a preventive approach to reduce ergonomic-related injuries and OSHA's intent to enforce this perspective utilizing proven legal means under the General Duty Clause.

In addition, compliance assistance including training, guidelines and grants to analyze what programs work is strongly supported by AOHP. Research efforts are key to developing best practices to address ergonomic concerns. Many employers have already begun to make significant strides in reducing injuries and this needs to be recognized.