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AOHP Signs Three-Year Extension with NIOSH *Total Worker Health*® Affiliate Program

WARRENDALE, PA — The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) signed a three-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), effective July 12, 2018, that extends AOHP's collaborative relationship with NIOSH as a *Total Worker Health*® Affiliate.

NIOSH launched the *Total Worker Health* program in June 2011 to advance worker well-being with policies, programs, and practices that integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts. Its *Total Worker Health* Affiliate Program fosters an integrated approach to protecting and promoting worker well-being through collaborations with academic, labor, nonprofit, and government organizations.

“As a leader in advocating for and providing health and safety protection resources for healthcare workers, AOHP is excited to extend our *Total Worker Health* affiliate relationship with NIOSH,” remarks AOHP Executive President Mary Bliss, RN, COHN. “AOHP fully supports *Total Worker Health's* emphasis on improving the work environment and working conditions to better safeguard workers and improve their health.”

This new MOA encourages further development of and participation in mutually beneficial activities between NIOSH and AOHP to advance the *Total Worker Health* initiative, including joint research, program development, educational collaborations, publication development and dissemination, and the cross-promotion of related activities. As an affiliate, AOHP:

- Disseminates fundamental information and updates about *Total Worker Health* through the association's monthly and quarterly print and online publications.
- Supports members in including *Total Worker Health* information during chapter meetings.
- Encourages individual members to utilize *Total Worker Health* information and resources to improve health, safety, and wellness efforts at an organizational level.
- Collaborates with NIOSH to provide *Total Worker Health* topics at AOHP's Annual National Conference.
- Shares best practices from AOHP's EXPO-S.T.O.P. survey to reduce sharps injuries/blood exposures.
- Collaborates on areas of concern in healthcare safety and health, such as safety culture, shift work/long work hours, leave management, and workplace violence.

AOHP is a national association with about 1,000 members whose vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare. AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare workers through: advocating for employee health and safety; occupational health

education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations. For more information about AOHP or the MOA, contact Annie Wiest, AOHP Executive Director, at 800-362-4347, or e-mail info@aohp.org.

NIOSH is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related injury and illness. Established through the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, NIOSH is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information about NIOSH, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/.

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