

May 29, 2009

NIOSH Docket 146
Robert A. Taft Lab
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

To Whom It May Concern:

The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Personal Protective Technology (PPT) Implementation Plan. Effective personal protective equipment is essential to the daily practice of healthcare workers across the country. This includes effective respiratory protection and scientifically based initial and periodic respirator fit testing.

AOHP was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the stakeholder meeting in Pittsburgh to gain a better understanding of the National Academies Program Evaluation and Recommendations related to the PPT program. The draft plan is well thought out and addresses a variety of industries and their respective PPT needs. Optimizing the dissemination of the research findings is critical to providing the highest level of protection for the national workforce in a timely manner.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan and look forward to working with NIOSH as the process moves forward. AOHP is a national organization with approximately 1000 occupational health professionals who work in healthcare settings, primarily hospitals. AOHP's vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare. Our mission is dedicated to promoting the health and safety of workers in healthcare. This is accomplished through:

- **Advocating for employee health and safety**
- **Occupational health education and networking opportunities**
- **Health and safety advancement through best practice and research**
- **Partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations.**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this document. Please contact MaryAnn Gruden, our Association Community Liaison, if additional information or questions arise. She can be reached at 412/578-6792 or by email at magaohp@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



Sandra Prickitt,
AOHP Executive President