

*Dedicated to the health and safety of healthcare workers*

June 17, 2009

The Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey  
United States House of Representatives  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Re: H.R. 2067

Dear Honorable Woolsey:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) regarding House Bill H.R. 2067, "Protecting America's Workers Act", a bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. AOHP supports the intent of this bill.

AOHP agrees with the attached comments made by the American Industrial Hygiene Association's (AIHA) President Lindsay Booher, CIH, CSP on May 27, 2009. AIHA recommended several changes of interest to AOHP and its members. These recommendations include:

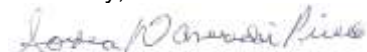
- Incorporate language to require the Labor Secretary to devise a process where permissible exposure limits be modified and established for toxic materials and harmful physical agents on a regular basis. The process, according to AIHA, should include a requirement to regularly (perhaps at least very three years) evaluate available scientific evidence, data and information to determine if exposure limits should be established or updated.
- AIHA urges inclusion of a new section to provide for an increase in the membership of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission from three to five members to ensure that cases are reviewed in a timely manner.
- Amend the bill to include language that all employers shall establish a written safety and health program.

We share a mutual concern in providing workers and communities a healthy and safe environment and to prevent occupational diseases and injuries. AOHP is a national organization with over 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and support for H.R.2067. Please feel free to contact Executive Vice President Lynne Karnitz at 920-794-5181 or [lynne.karnitz@aurora.org](mailto:lynne.karnitz@aurora.org) for additional information or if questions arise.

Sincerely,



Sandra Domeracki Prickitt, RN, FNP, COHN-S  
AOHP Executive President