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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2021

Lee Newman, MD, MA
Distinguished University Professor,
Colorado School of Public Health and School of Medicine
Director, Center for Health, Work & Environment
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus 13001 E. 17th Place, Mailstop B119
Aurora, CO 80045

Dear Dr. Newman:

I write to urge your full and fair consideration of the request made by the Center for Health, Work & Environment for the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) to renew their cooperative agreement. The COVID-19 pandemic has truly emphasized the importance of taking a holistic approach to addressing the needs of working Coloradans and their families. The concept of Total Worker Health holds great promise for improving both job safety and well-being of the workforce in Colorado and across the country. I am proud that the district I represent is home to one of the six National Centers of Excellence in Total Worker Health.

Through the Health Links program, the Center for Health, Work & Environment works directly with mostly small businesses in Aurora, Colorado and the surrounding communities to implement and improve workplace health and safety programs. They work closely with over 370 businesses across the State of Colorado including 46 businesses in my district. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center quickly pivoted to partner with the Tri-County Health Department and other community public health entities to provide employers with much needed guidance on how to keep workers safe, employed, and productive. The emphasis on workers' mental health, in addition to practical ways of protecting workers from exposure to the virus, have been particularly valuable to our community.

I am pleased to see that the proposed NIOSH cooperative agreement included language that ensured the continued focus on the needs of small enterprises and engagement with community stakeholders. Importantly, these projects specifically address the well-being of teachers and staff in Aurora Public Schools, early childhood educators, agricultural workers, and cancer survivors,

who strive to continue working while receiving treatment. I applaud the Center's continued efforts of addressing workplace protection for some of the most diverse and vulnerable workers.

On behalf of my constituents, I urge you to complete your full and fair consideration as quickly as possible to ensure assistance can be made available to those small businesses in need. If you have any other needs or would like to keep me apprised of the decision reached by NIOSH, please contact Veronica Shotts at Veronica.Shotts@mail.house.gov or 720-748-7514.

Sincerely,



JASON CROW
Member of Congress