

SUSAN WILD  
7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Alexander Acosta  
Secretary  
United States Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave N.W.  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Acosta:

We are writing to urge you to immediately reinstate the original *Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses* rule published on May 12, 2016, which has been undermined by a final rule published by the Administration on January 25, 2019.

As you know, the *Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses* rule required companies with 250 employees or more to electronically submit OSHA forms 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses) and 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report) each year. These forms provided critical information on the safety level of workplaces, including accidents, injuries, illnesses, and deaths. Under the Administration's final rule, employers will be required only to submit their 300A—a "summary of work-related injuries and illnesses"—rather than complete information.

As Members of Congress who are focused on defending high safety standards for all workers, we are deeply concerned that the final rule endangers worker protections and undermines hard-fought gains. Until 2016—when the rule was enacted—most workplace injury records were difficult for many workers to obtain and inaccessible to researchers and the public. At that time, workers in many of our most dangerous industries did not have the necessary information to protect themselves against dangers in the workplace, and the Administration's reversal risks putting them back in this same situation.

We object to claims by the Administration that the final rule is designed to protect workers' privacy. The final rule did not require employers to send the personal information of any individual, and any personal information that OSHA may possess is confidential and, as such, cannot be obtained under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.


By weakening workplace safety reporting, the Administration is also denying important data to outside organizations and researchers focused on finding solutions to improve workers' safety and occupational health. The DOL's own data makes clear that we must raise workplace safety standards, not lower them: The *Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries* report released in December 2018 shows that 5,147 US workers died on the job in 2017—including a record rate of deaths from falls and an increase in deaths from confined spaces.

The pervasiveness of preventable workplace-related deaths and injuries in our country is unacceptable, and we must make improving worker safety an urgent national priority. On behalf of all of America's workers, we ask you to help combat dangerous working conditions by reinstating the *Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses* rule now.

Sincerely,



SUSAN WILD  
Member of Congress




ANDY LEVIN  
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress



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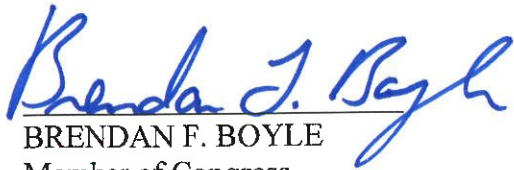
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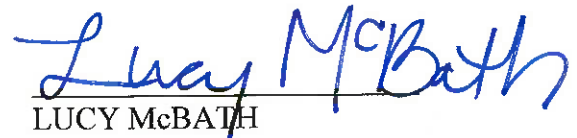
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