



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Eugene Scalia
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Scalia:

For more than a century, the National Safety Council (NSC) has helped employers prioritize the safety and health of their most important resource—their employees. Now, more than ever, this is a top priority. NSC applauds the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) for hosting the *Opening America's Workplaces Again* online dialogue to discuss continuing work and returning to work safely.

NSC is a mission-based organization, focused on eliminating the leading causes of preventable death and injury. We focus our efforts and thought leadership on impacting safety through three strategic pillars: Workplace, Roadway and Impairment. Our more than 15,000 member companies represent employees at nearly 50,000 U.S. worksites.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every workplace and worker in America. NSC has heard from our members that they need guidance to ensure employee safety and health as they continue and resume operations now and in a post-pandemic environment. To this end, NSC launched *SAFER: Safe Actions for Employee Returns* (www.nsc.org/safer) on April 22. SAFER is a partnership between NSC and companies, trade associations, leading safety organizations and public health professionals and experts. NSC convened the SAFER task force to issue recommendations and develop guidance for employers of all sectors and sizes as they determine their needs to ensure the health and safety of their workers. Today, we are releasing the SAFER Framework Summary as a contribution to the DOL: *Opening America's Workplaces Again* dialogue. Guidance will cover the following:

- Physical Considerations
- Medical
- Emotional and Mental Health
- Employment and Human Resources Concerns
- Communication
- External Factors

More topics will be added as we work together to navigate this new normal. I'm pleased to inform you that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is participating in SAFER too.



I appreciate the work that DOL is doing to return employees to work safely and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together. Jane Terry, NSC Vice President of Government Affairs, can be reached at Jane.Terry@nsc.org to coordinate this conversation.

All Americans, including those of us at NSC, are grappling with the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic on our health, society, and economy. I appreciate this opportunity to comment and share resources and look forward to working together to keep everyone safe, from the workplace to anyplace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine M. Martin".

Lorraine M. Martin
President and CEO

Enclosure:

https://www.nsc.org/Portals/0/Documents/NSCDocuments_Advocacy/Safety%20at%20Work/COVID-19/SAFER%20Framework%20Summary050620.pdf?ver=2020-05-06-162456-463