



Government Affairs Newsletter NSC.org/alerts

Safety and Health on the Hill SPECIAL CONGRESS EDITION!

Welcome to Indianapolis, and the world's largest "must attend" event for safety, health and environmental professionals. We're thrilled you are with us and to share this Special Edition of the NSC Government Affairs Update with you!

Appropriations

On Sept. 8, the President signed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government at FY 2017 levels until Dec. 8. Congress expedited the CR as it was packaged with emergency Hurricane Harvey relief and a provision to postpone the impending debate on the debt ceiling. The enactment of this law buys Congress additional time to prepare next year's budget, but also postpones until December many contentious policy deliberations expected to shape any eventual budget deal.

Concurrently, the U.S. House is finalizing a package of FY 2018 appropriations legislation, but the Senate has not passed most spending bills. This sets up a precarious situation as they negotiate to finalize FY2018 spending bills.

Automated Vehicles (AV)

National Safety Council President and CEO Deborah A.P. Hersman testified in front of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee regarding automated vehicles and the need to evaluate roadway safety options in order to reach zero fatalities. She shared her optimism about the role automated vehicles and advanced driver assist systems can play in preventing fatal crashes and supported the inclusion of commercial vehicles in draft AV legislation before the committee.

U.S. DOT Secretary Elaine Chao unveiled updated automated vehicle guidelines in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Sept. 12. This new guidance reflects an update of the Federal Automated Vehicles Policy released in September 2017. The updated guidance has a new structure, re-emphasizes its voluntary nature and clarifies federal and state roles.

Opioid Event

On Thursday, Oct. 12, the National Safety Council, in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will host The Opioid Epidemic: From the Front Lines to the Boardroom, *Best Practices & Recommendations for Addressing Substance Use* – a forum highlighting how substance use is impacting the business community with an emphasis on addressing the opioid crisis.

This half-day conference will focus on solutions to improving access for substance use treatment in the workplace.

At the event, speakers will discuss the following topics:

- Coordinating public and private-sector efforts to maximize impact
- Showcasing employer-led strategies to discuss how businesses can be part of the solution

Register now at goo.gl/umrKVs, and see the **event page at goo.gl/mDv6rw** for more updates on the agenda and list of speakers.

Questions? Please contact Julian Hoffman at julian.hoffman@nsc.org

Presidential Nominations

The White House announced nominations for two administrators at the U.S. Department of Transportation:

- For the Federal Highway Administration, **Paul Trombino**. Trombino is president of McClure Engineering Company, former president of American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), vice-chair of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee and was head of the Iowa Department of Transportation from 2011 to 2016.
- For the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, **Howard “Skip” Elliott**, a 40-year railroad veteran with an extensive background in hazmat rail transport.
- The White House has yet to announce a NHTSA or FMCSA Administrator.

Other notable appointments: **Loren Sweatt** was appointed as the deputy assistant secretary for OSHA and will serve as the acting assistant secretary. Prior to being appointed to OSHA, she served as a senior policy advisor at the Committee on Education and Workforce in the U. S. House of Representatives. At this time, there is no announced nomination for Assistant Secretary of OSHA.

Road to Zero

You're invited to join the National Safety Council in celebrating the first anniversary of the Road to Zero (RTZ) from 9 a.m. to noon (EST) on Oct. 13 at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health, 700 2nd St NE, Washington, D.C.

RTZ is made up of nearly 400 unique stakeholder organizations dedicated to ending traffic fatalities on our roadways by 2050. We invite you join the RTZ coalition at nsc.org/RoadToZero – there is no cost and we welcome all organizations and individuals to be part of the solution.

State Advocacy Efforts

The National Safety Council has been active this year in state capitals, and we look forward to continuing this work next year. Here are some highlights:

- In Utah, along with a coalition of like-minded organizations, NSC worked with the sponsor of a bill to lower BAC to .05, which was signed into law. NSC provided fact sheets, letters of support, media support, including an op-ed by President and CEO Deborah A.P. Hersman, and data to support the effort.
- In Texas, NSC worked on a number of bills. We were very active in the effort to implement a texting while driving ban, which was successful. NSC also was a major supporter of a bill that was signed into law that would allow high schools to offer curriculum on teen workplace safety.

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