



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

Leadership, Progress, and Plans: AIHA's Government Relations Update

Yuma Pacific-Southwest Section 48th Annual Meeting

Mark Ames
Director, Government Relations
Friday, January 20, 2023

AGENDA

- AIHA's Amazing Year of Government Relations Achievements
- Election Results: How Will AIHA Work with New and Returning Members of Congress, State Legislators, Governors, School Board Members, etc.?
- AIHA's New Public Policy Priorities
 - Thermal Stress
 - Noise
 - Improving the Learning and Working Conditions of Schools and Strengthening the OEHS professional Pipeline
- Plans and What to Expect in 2023
- Tips for Effective Advocacy: Tapping into Hidden Opportunities for Influence

AIHA's Amazing Year of Government Relations Achievements

AIHA's Amazing Year of Government Relations Achievements

We have increased volunteer engagement in government relations and the number of letters sent to policymakers by more than 260%, compared to 2021.

Your fellow members have devoted hundreds of volunteer hours to GR – and this has had a predictable and very positive outcome.

AIHA-favorable action occurred at the Federal level and in every State where AIHA is registered to lobby.

AIHA's Amazing Year of Government Relations Achievements

For instance, although deeply divided, in Virginia, both Democrats and Republicans came together in near-unanimous support of a bill that protects student-athletes and coaches from heat-related illness. This bill was among the first to be signed into law by Governor Glenn Youngkin.

Similarly, in April, OSHA invited Maggie Morrissey, the Secretary of AIHA's Thermal Stress Working Group, to speak at the first-ever national meeting of the National Integrated Heat Health Information System, which brought together leaders and stakeholders from across the nation. (See <https://www.heat.gov/pages/nihhis-national-meeting>)

Additionally, in May, AIHA was honored by OSHA when we were selected as one of the few organizations to speak at a six-hour stakeholder meeting on heat-related hazards, which attracted approximately 3,000 attendees.

AIHA's Amazing Year of Government Relations Achievements

AIHA's members, which have been very active in the pandemic, were publicly thanked by senior White House leaders for their help in improving indoor air quality, which has allowed students and employees to safely return to work and school faster.

AIHA also helped stop well-intended, but misguided legislation in Florida, and helped our priority legislation advance in Congress.

Thanks to you, AIHA remains an elite, nonpartisan, trusted, scientific organization that policymakers and other stakeholders turn to and rely on for guidance.

Increasingly, policymakers across the nation are recognizing that AIHA represents some of the most influential, well-connected thought leaders in the United States and beyond.

Election Results

How Will AIHA Work with
New and Returning
Members of Congress,
State Legislators,
Governors, School Board
Members, etc.?

Here's the answer...

We are a nonpartisan organization and will continue working with all policymakers to protect workers and their communities.

OEHS is a nonpartisan issue. Please don't worry about which Party controls which chamber or anything like that.

AIHA's New Public Policy Priorities

Our new policy priorities will help guide AIHA's work with policymakers, media, stakeholders, and the public in the months (and perhaps years) to come.



AIHA's New Public Policy Priorities

Thermal Stress



Thermal Stress Policy Priorities (examples)

- Encourage States and the Federal gov't to enact legislation or issue regulations protecting indoor and outdoor workers from hazardous heat.
- Raise awareness of heat-related illnesses and heat hazards, particularly among under-served populations.
- Advocate for legislation that supports training workers and supervisors how to prevent, identify, and respond to early signs of heat stress as well as heat-related medical emergencies.

AIHA's New Public Policy Priorities

Noise



Noise Stress Policy Priorities (examples)

- Support government actions to increase worker, supervisor, and public awareness of hazardous noise.
- Advocate for legislation that makes hearing protection more widely available for workers and the public.
- Support legislation or regulations that adopt the World Health Organization's global standard for safe listening venues and events.
- Advocate for Federal and State legislation that supports training supervisors and workers on the proper use of hearing protection.

AIHA's New Public Policy Priorities

School Infrastructure & OEHS Workforce Pipeline



School Infrastructure & OEHS Workforce Pipeline Policy Priorities (examples)

- Encourage our members to meet with students, teachers, school leaders, and others to encourage more students to pursue careers in OEHS and to help improve the learning and working conditions of schools.
- Advocate for legislation that supports NIOSH's Education and Research Centers (ERCs), which are university-based multidisciplinary centers that educate and train the current and next generation of OEHS professionals.
- Promote careers in OEHS by working with the U.S. uniformed services.
- Encourage Federal, State, and local governments to recognize a "Workplace and Community Health and Safety Week", modeled after Engineers Week.
- Advocate for legislation that would require annual, comprehensive health and safety inspections for all school facilities.



1

Create a Clean Indoor Air Action Plan

Create a plan for upgrades and improvements, including HVAC inspections and maintenance if applicable.

2

Optimize Fresh Air Ventilation

Bring clean outdoor air indoors and circulate it when it is safe to do so.

3

Enhance Air Filtration and Cleaning

By taking steps such as improving your central HVAC system and/or installing in-room air cleaning devices including HEPA filters.

4

Engage the Building Community

Communicate with building occupants to increase awareness, commitment, and participation.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanindoorair/>

Plans and What to Expect in 2023



Plans and What to Expect in 2023

- We'll be meeting with new and returning policymakers.
- Promote our public policy priorities.
- Continue watching for public policy threats and opportunities outside of our public policy priorities.
- Encourage even more AIHA members to engage in GR.
- Encourage our members to meet with students, teachers, school leaders, and others to encourage more students to pursue careers in OEHS and to help improve the learning and working conditions of schools.
- Hold AIHA's first-ever congressional advocacy week (virtual).
- Create a coalition focused on supporting Federal funding of OEHS-related agencies and programs. This will unite stakeholder groups who have rarely or perhaps never worked together.

Tips for Effective Advocacy: Tapping into Hidden Opportunities for Influence



8 Ways to Engage in Gov't Relations

1. Submitting comments to an agency on a rulemaking
2. Sending emails to Members of Congress or State legislators
3. Serving on a government advisory board or council
4. Meeting with Members of Congress
5. Meeting with congressional staff
6. Meeting with State legislators
7. Meeting with agency leaders and staff
8. Meeting with a governor

Each activity type has a set of distinct and common elements. Schedule a chat with me to learn more at mames@aiha.org.

In the meantime, let's dip a toe into universal ways to enhance your influence with policymakers and other key stakeholders.

Tapping into Influence Opportunities

Influence comes from 3 sources:

- 1) **Within:** Knowledge of and acceptance of yourself. This is confidence, leaning into your own story and drawing from your experiences.
- 2) **Between:** The influence of social roles, pressures, culture, etc.
- 3) **Environment:** The influence of your surroundings, including objects, lighting, colors, time of day, the weather, sounds, etc.

All of these factors influence the thoughts and actions of others and ourselves – and we can control many of them. The key is awareness and intentionality. This is crafting an experience.

Elements of Influence for Discussion Next Time

- Enclothed cognition
- How we present information and choices
- Biases
- Schema (mental models we use to understand and predict the world)
- Associative memory
- Material priming

The more aware we are of how we are being influenced, the more we can control the degree to which others are influencing us.

Similarly, **the more intentional we are in how social and environmental cues subtly, yet profoundly influence the thoughts and actions of others, the more we can guide them to take desired actions.**

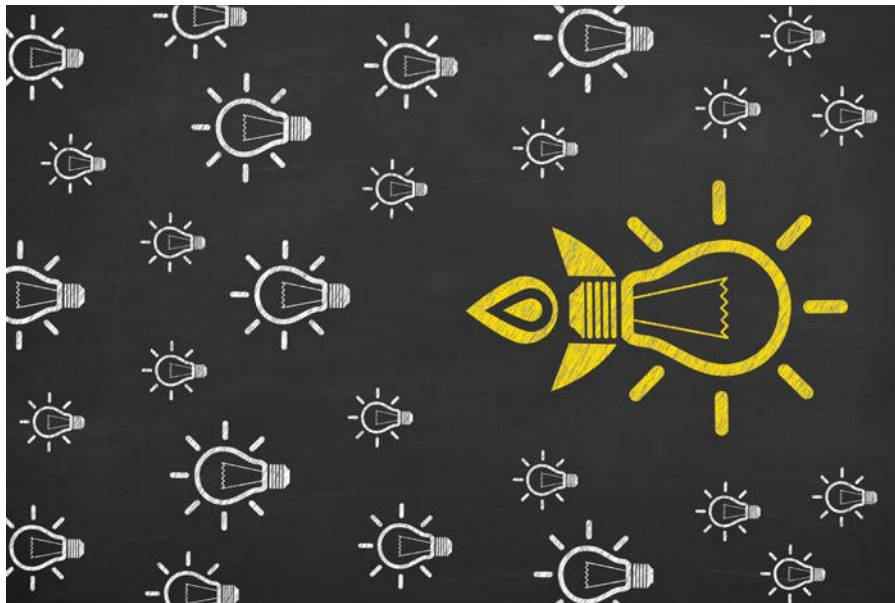
Tapping into Influence Opportunities

There's a lot more to mastering leadership, power, and influence to help protect more workers and their communities.

If you're interested, let's talk...

Mark Ames
mames@aiha.org
(703) 846-0730

Thank You for
Your Volunteerism!



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES

A HEALTHIER WORLD