

SHERROD BROWN

OHIO

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,  
AND FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING,  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FINANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

June 12, 2014

Dear Secretary Burwell:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). I look forward to the future of HHS under your leadership.

I am writing about a priority of mine which I raised with Secretary Sebelius prior to her resignation: the critical need for new buildings for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) center in Cincinnati, Ohio. By consolidating the existing campuses and upgrading the facilities, we can help improve and enhance scientific collaboration among NIOSH researchers, thereby supporting research that improves worker and workplace safety.

NIOSH's mission is to "prevent work-related injury, illness, and death." Unfortunately, most of its facilities are more than 60 years old and in varying states of disrepair. The irony that these buildings are in such a state is not lost on NIOSH or its dedicated employees. At a time when NIOSH's efforts are essential to American competitiveness and the prevention of work-related safety and health risks, we should be working to ensure that its facilities benefit its mission.

In Cincinnati, NIOSH research and support activities are located on two separate campuses, approximately eight miles apart. Both campuses are comprised of aging 1950's-era facilities that are deficient in both space configuration and building systems. Because of this, collaboration is limited and NIOSH's cutting-edge scientific research is inhibited. Upgrading these facilities is of paramount importance.

We know that a healthy and safe workplace leads to a more productive and capable American workforce. New buildings would allow NIOSH to undertake the cutting-edge scientific research that forms the core of its public-health mission.

As HHS prepares its fiscal year 2016 budget, I request that HHS work with the CDC to find and prioritize funding necessary to identify and acquire a new NIOSH facility in Cincinnati. I look forward to working with you on this important issue as well as other important issues in your new role as Secretary of HHS. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator