AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
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Government Affairs and Advocacy Update

February 2026

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02

Congress has approved and the President has signed full FY26 funding for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, preserving its ability to investigate serious chemical incidents and issue prevention recommendations.

The outcome helps protects workers and communities and highlights the unique role CSB plays in prevention across high-hazard industries.

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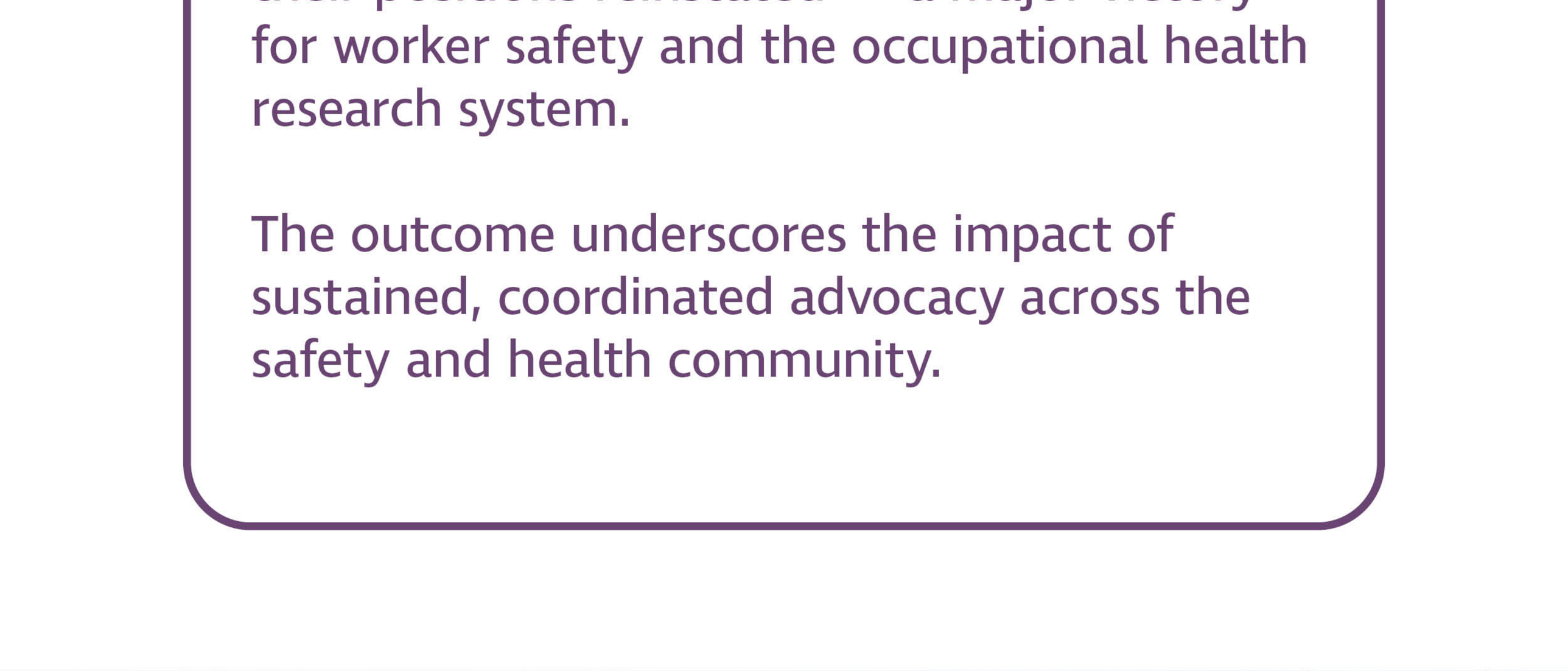
03

Following months of uncertainty, hundreds of previously laid-off NIOSH staff have had their positions reinstated — a major victory for worker safety and the occupational health research system.

The outcome underscores the impact of sustained, coordinated advocacy across the safety and health community.



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04

OSHA has issued a final rule extending several compliance deadlines for the revised Hazard Communication Standard. The additional time allows employers to align labeling, safety data sheets and training requirements with the updated framework.



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05

NIOSH recently outlined steps to strengthen the respirator approval process and address counterfeit or misrepresented products in the marketplace. The update reinforces the importance of verifying NIOSH approval status as part of respiratory protection programs.



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06

OSHA issued a Letter of Interpretation clarifying when injuries involving personal rechargeable lithium-ion batteries are recordable under OSHA's recordkeeping requirements. The guidance helps employers handle these emerging incidents consistently in their injury and illness logs.



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07

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