



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

**May 14, 2026**

**Statement for the Record:** Hearing of May 13, 2026

**To:** House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections

**From:** American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)

**Subject:** Building a Safer Future: Private-Sector Strategies for Emerging Safety Issues

The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) monitored the hearing today addressing “*Building a Safer Future: Private-Sector Strategies for Emerging Safety Issues.*” We appreciate the views and perspectives of the different panelists and how they believe occupational safety and health performance can be improved.

ASSP is pleased to submit this statement for the record regarding the testimony provided by the panelists on emerging workplace safety and health issues. As the world’s oldest global professional workplace safety and health organization, representing over 35,000 members, ASSP stands aligned with the urgent need to address evolving hazards and exposures through proactive, evidence-based strategies.

To supplement the discussion on private-sector innovations and the reduction of workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses, ASSP submits the following key priorities:

### **Prioritizing "SIF Leaders" and Hazard Controls**

While overall injury rates may fluctuate, rates of Serious Injuries and Fatalities (SIFs) remain a critical challenge. ASSP advocates for a strategic shift in messaging and methodology, focusing on "SIF leaders," the top hazards and precursors, for example, such as the "Fatal Four," that consistently lead to the most tragic outcomes. We believe that by operationalizing safety and health standards to target these specific high-risk areas, the private sector can move beyond passive observation to active risk assessment and remediation. There was additional discussion on voluntary national consensus standards and metrics. ASSP is the secretariat of the committee viewed as creating the most comprehensive occupational safety and health metric standard in the United States:

*ANSI/ASSP Z16.1-2022 Safety and Health Metrics and Performance Measures*

ASSP would be pleased to provide a copy of the standard to the Subcommittee members if they would like to review its contents.



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## **Operationalizing Standards through Collaboration**

One of the panelists noted ongoing work addressing control of hazardous energy lockout/tagout. Our [ANSI/ASSP Z244.1 Standard](#) was specifically included. There is also a standard addressing lockout/tagout (LOTO) specific to construction and demolition operations: [ANSI/ASSP A10.44](#).

In addition, ASSP recently launched its [Standards-Based User Groups \(SBUGs\)](#) to bridge the gap between regulatory theory and operational reality. These collaborative, industry-led networks allow safety and health professionals to move beyond compliance into practical and timely remediation strategies. Control of hazardous energy and LOTO is a specific ASSP SBUG. We stand ready to provide technical assistance to the private and public sector of updated methods through our SBUGs.

The Society would be pleased to provide Subcommittee members with a copy of these standards if they would like to review the technical contents of these respected and widely used documents.

## **Occupational Health and Safety and Health Management Systems**

ASSP was pleased to see the panelists understand and appreciate the need to implement effective management systems addressing occupational safety and health. ASSP is viewed as the global leader on this issue as the Society publishes occupational safety and health management systems standards addressing a wide range of industries. This includes general industry in addition to construction and demolition operations. We do recommend the implementation of the applicable national consensus standards (such as ANSI/ASSP Z10, ANSI/ASSP/ISO 45001 and the ANSI/ASSP A10.1 Standards) directly into business and organizational operating systems. This initiative ensures that safety and health are treated not as a standalone compliance metric, but as a core driver of operational excellence and business strategy.

## **Integrating AI and Emerging Technology**

As highlighted in our 2026 AI Taskforce white paper, [AI and the Evolving Role of EHS Professionals](#), technology must serve as a partner to the safety and health profession. We support the integration of artificial intelligence for predictive risk modeling and real-time hazard monitoring, provided these tools are implemented with a focus on worker trust, transparency and human-centric design.

## **Health as Foundational Infrastructure**

True workplace safety and health require a Total Worker Health® approach. Our [2026 Corporate Listening Tour](#) confirmed that workforce stability, mental health and psychological safety are foundational to a productive workplace. We urge the Subcommittee to recognize that worker well-

being is not a "soft" secondary concern, but essential infrastructure for a resilient and safe American workforce.

The Society is also an active partner of the [Workplace EHS Coalition](#). The coalition is dedicated to improving occupational safety and health by significantly reducing SIFs while strengthening the organizational bottom line. We believe our core principles offer valuable insights for Subcommittee members and stakeholders committed to workplace safety.

ASSP remains committed to serving as a trusted advisor to both industry and government. We look forward to continuing our work with the Subcommittee to ensure every worker returns home safely at the end of their shift. Please feel free to contact ASSP if we can provide further information or copies of the American National Standards cited in our statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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