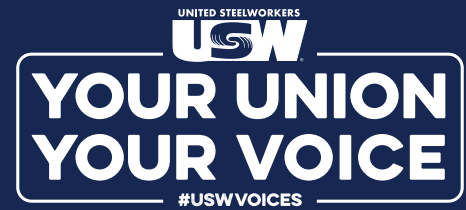


# WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH



*Lawmakers, unions, and other stakeholders have worked for decades to institute health and safety protections for workers on the job. Yet recently, there has been a push to dismantle these protections by defunding or repealing authorities of key government agencies like the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).*

*Such moves not only threaten workers, but also community safety. Instead of planning to roll back workplace protections, candidates must have a plan to hold employers accountable for keeping workers and their communities healthy and safe.*

## VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN'S RESPONSES TO USW QUESTIONNAIRE ON WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH:

VP Biden **opposes weakening the oversight and regulatory role of agencies like OSHA and MSHA.** He will reverse key rollbacks made by the Trump Administration by increasing the number of OSHA inspectors; reinstating regulations requiring employers to report workplace injuries; and appointing leaders who understand the need for functional safety standards.

Regarding funding for key agencies that oversee worker safety, VP Biden says, "I strongly **oppose budget cuts** to the Labor Department, the NLRB, OSHA, MSHA, and the Chemical Safety Board. I will reverse these cuts and ensure that these worker protection agencies have the resources they need to carry out their critically important missions."

VP Biden strongly **opposes efforts to delay or eliminate protections for workers exposed to toxic workplace substances.** He will build on the Obama-Biden Administration's initiative to improve chemical safety and security after 15 people died in an explosion in West, TX in 2013.

One result from that initiative was the Chemical Disaster Rule, which improves protections for workers, first responders, and communities from chemical facility disasters. The Trump Administration has rolled back parts of the Chemical Disaster Rule. VP Biden condemns this, saying, "This is wrong. No one should risk getting injured or dying simply because they went to work." He stands with our union in our effort to preserve these protections.

VP Biden will **direct OSHA to quickly issue a standard protecting health care and social service workers from workplace violence,** saying, "Employers bear the responsibility for [safe] workplaces... Preventing foreseeable acts of violence is an essential part of this responsibility."

Recognizing the fear that workers have about safety during the **COVID-19 pandemic,** if he were President, Biden would immediately **double the number of OSHA inspectors** and issue an **Emergency Temporary Standard** for all workers. During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the Obama-Biden administration directed OSHA to enforce the law to protect workers from infection. Then, the Obama-Biden OSHA prepared for the next pandemic by developing an infectious disease prevention standard that the Trump administration abandoned.

For additional survey results, visit [www.uswvoices.org](http://www.uswvoices.org). To read the full questionnaire, visit [www.uswvoices.org/joesanswers](http://www.uswvoices.org/joesanswers)