

# SAFE JOBS SAVE LIVES

**FORTY YEARS AGO**, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer, saved hundreds of thousand of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses.

But our work is not done. Many job hazards are unregulated and uncontrolled. Some employers, like Massey Energy and BP, cut corners and violate the law, putting workers in serious danger and costing lives. Each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more are injured or diseased because of their jobs.

The Obama administration has moved forward to strengthen protections, with tougher enforcement on serious violators and proposed new safeguards for workplace hazards. But business groups and the new Republican majority in the U.S. House of

Representatives are attacking these stronger measures and trying to roll back existing protections, falsely claiming they kill jobs. They are trying to slash the budget for job safety enforcement and standards.

We cannot and will not let them turn back the clock and destroy the progress we have made to make jobs safer and save lives. Safety laws and regulations don't kill jobs—but unsafe jobs do kill workers.

On April 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew the fight for safe workplaces. This year on the 40th anniversary of OSHA, we will fight to create good jobs in this country that are safe and healthy. We will fight for the freedom of workers to form unions and, through their unions, to speak out and bargain for respect and a better future. We will demand that the country fulfill the promise of safe jobs for all. Our Work's Not Done.

**MOURN FOR THE DEAD. FIGHT FOR THE LIVING.**

**AFL-CIO**

**Observe Workers Memorial Day.  
April 28.**