**SAMPLE LETTER**

Date

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

United States Senate **OR** U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20410 (Senate zip code) **OR** 20515 (House zip code) [or you may use their home district office address]

Dear Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As a constituent and an occupational health nursing professional, I urge you to take immediate action to address the lack of information in the Electronic Medical Record (EHR) regarding potential workplace and environmental exposures. I strongly endorse the proposed public policy under [insert reference # for proposed regulation or legislation] to require coding the patient’s occupation and industry in the personal EHR. I support my colleagues at NIOSH, the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), the American Public Health Association (APHA), and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in recommending all EHRs collect data for industry and occupation.

Inclusion of Industry and Occupation (I/O) data would improve the health of individuals, families, and communities and reduce fragmentation between the general health care and occupational sectors. Occupation and industry data should be standardized and integrated into the usual care of individual patients to facilitate early identification of health problems caused or exacerbated by work, and to better identify and manage health impacts upon the workplace and community. At the public health level, I/O data are needed to identify populations at risk, identify underserved populations, and promote development of new approaches to reduce the burden of illness and injury in the U.S population.

Occupational and Environmental Health Nurses work within the greater health care system, to positively impact the health and safety of workers, their families and communities. Integration of occupational and personal health records, with appropriate firewalls to ensure confidentiality, is a step in the right direction to reduce the fragmentation of the current system. Adding the I/O elements has tremendous potential to help create efficiencies and new opportunities for effective health care delivery at both the individual patient and population levels.

Thank you for your attention to my request. Please contact me for additional information on this or other occupational health and safety issues.

Sincerely, [insert 3 blank lines]

[Insert your signature]

[Your name]

[Your home address l personal telephone number l personal email address]