



Testimony of Mark Ames on Behalf of the
American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA)

Before the

Maryland Senate Finance Committee

In Support of Senate Bill 434

February 20, 2020

Senator Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
Maryland State Senate

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Vice Chair, Finance Committee
Maryland State Senate

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Ames, and I am both a resident of Silver Spring, MD, living in District 14, and the head of Government Relations for the American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA). I am here to testify in support of SB 434.

David Lopez was working outside at a construction site when he began feeling ill. It was a Sunday, and it was hot out – in the high 90s. He was operating a forklift, when he started having a headache and feeling disoriented. David was having heat stroke. He was rushed to the emergency room with a temperature of 109 degrees. Heat stroke sets in when your body reaches 104 degrees and is extremely dangerous.

Sadly, David passed away; the heat stroke killed him¹. He was just 39; a little older than me.

Unfortunately, David's story is far from unique. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, between 1992 and 2016, exposure to excessive environmental heat killed 783 workers, and seriously injured more than 69,000.

All of these deaths and all of these injuries were preventable. Senate Bill 434 would make tremendous progress on this problem. AIHA fully supports the bill and encourages your committee to approve it.

Background on AIHA

Founded 81 years ago, AIHA is a nonprofit organization serving professionals dedicated to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, control, and confirmation of environmental stressors in or arising from the workplace that may result in injury, illness, impairment, or affect the well-being of workers and members of the community. AIHA provides comprehensive education programs and other products and services that help its members maintain the highest professional standards.

More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIHs) and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed in the industrial, consulting, academic, and government sectors. AIHA has more than 200 members and two Local Sections in Maryland. Collectively, AIHA's members impact millions of American workers.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Senate Bill 434 represents an important step forward, combating the challenge of heat stress. Because of this, AIHA encourages the Committee to approve this bill and looks forward to working with you on this, and related matters. Thank you for your time.

¹ Henry, Larry. "Worker Who Died from Heat Stroke Identified." KFSM-Channel 5.
<https://5newsonline.com/2012/06/26/landscaper-dies-from-heat-stroke-at-ua/>. Accessed February 14, 2020.