DRAFT LETTER TO YOUR CONGRESSPERSON

Date:

The Honorable :

Address (Room Number, Building)

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman/man :

I am very concerned that the Department of Labor is proposing to revise Hazardous Occupation Orders #7 (HO7) to allow healthcare workers under 18 years of age to operate power-driven patient lift devices without the assistance of another employee who is at least 18 years of age.

To properly move, reposition, or transport a patient who is in frail or dependent condition requires the skills of a trained, adult worker who has thoroughly assessed a patient’s current condition, as it can change rapidly. NIOSH’s 2010 review noted that “the physical demands associated with operating…lifting devices are likely to exceed the maximum recommended strength requirements for many 16- and 17-year olds”. Young workers often underestimate their own limits, and may not seek assistance when working in busy healthcare facilities, out of view from more experienced staff.

**(Add your own experiences, thoughts…)**

I urge you to voice your strong opposition to this effort to weaken young worker and patient safety protections.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

(Your address)