



# VPPPAUPDATE

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## **2010 Election Results Signal a Better Climate for VPP**

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – A week after the 2010 election, it is time for the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association, Inc. (VPPPA) to consider the outcomes. To that end, the association would like to share the interpretation of the outcome published in the American Industrial Hygiene Association's (AIHA) *Happenings From The Hill*, particularly as it relates to the safety and health industry. The prognosis for the Voluntary Protection Programs is a positive one.

According to Aaron Trippler, director, government affairs, AIHA, it does not look like occupational health and safety legislative measures will be considered in the 112<sup>th</sup> session of Congress. It seems likely that Senator Tom Harkin will remain as the chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee with Senator Patty Murray as the chair of the subcommittee overseeing OSHA and Senator Mike Enzi (co-sponsor of the Voluntary Protection Program Act) as the Republican leader on the committee. On the House side, it is likely that Rep. George Miller will be replaced with Rep. John Kline as the chair of the House Education and Labor Committee. Rep. Lynn Woosley will also be replaced as the chair of the subcommittee overseeing OSHA.

This changes the climate for VPP. It is now more likely to find support for codification of VPP, securing permanent funding of the program. "This is one bill that may be enacted," said Trippler.

While it is reasonable to expect OSHA appropriations measures to include continued funding for VPP, this is also the best climate for VPP-participants to continue pushing for support of Senate Bill 3257, the Voluntary Protection Program Act, which would write VPP into law. This bill was originally sponsored by Senator Enzi with Senator Landrieu as the first co-sponsor and Senators Isakson and Lincoln as subsequent co-sponsors.

VPPPA, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is dedicated to promoting advances in worker safety and health excellence through cooperation among communities, workers, industries and governments. The approximately 2,100 VPPPA member sites primarily consist of worksites that have been approved, or are seeking approval, into VPP as administered by OSHA, state-plan OSHA and the Department of Energy.

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