



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
207 STATE CAPITOL, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

ROD BLAGOJEVICH  
GOVERNOR

March 22, 2004

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Secretary of Labor  
Frances Perkins Building  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chao:

As Governor of the State of Illinois, it is my intent and desire to apply to become a federally approved OSHA State Plan State for the public sector. Our application is nearly complete and we anticipate having the document completed by June 2004.

We believe that by becoming a federally approved OSHA State Plan, Illinois can better protect the safety and welfare of the public employees who work in -- and the citizens who obtain services in -- our public institutions. Your approval of the state's OSHA Plan will allow the Department of Labor to improve regulation and enforcement of the Safety Inspection and Education Act by raising the profile of the state's health and safety program, promoting standardization between IDOL division offices and federal programs, providing better statistical representation of the injury/illness rates for public sector employees and accessing federal OSHA training to make sure inspectors and investigators are properly trained.

Three other states receive federal funding for enforcing the OSHA regulations in the public sector only and the long-term benefits of this type of funding have been demonstrated in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and the Virgin Islands. The New York program serves a very similar population and has been able to better manage the safety and health issues statewide by limiting duplication of services and streamlining similar programs into one agency.

We look forward to working with you on our proposal to become a federally approved OSHA State Plan and in making Illinois workplaces safer and healthier for public servants and the citizens they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Blagojevich".

Rod Blagojevich  
Governor