

## PROCLAMATION

California workers have helped build the fifth-largest economy in the world and the contributions of our workforce help all Californians live and thrive in the state. Workers' Memorial Day is a time to remember the men and women who have lost their lives on the job and renew our commitment to securing safe and healthy working conditions for all workers.

During the pandemic, the heroism of our essential workers has been on display all across the state as health care workers, emergency responders, farmworkers, grocery workers, port workers, delivery drivers, child care workers, utility workers, janitors, custodians and many others continue to serve their fellow Californians during these challenging times. California is profoundly grateful to these women and men, and is committed to protecting those who are protecting us.

California has a long history of establishing and enforcing safeguards that always meet and frequently exceed federal requirements. California was the first state in the nation to adopt an Injury and Illness Prevention Program standard in 1991, a comprehensive rule that ensures training to prevent workplace hazards. Our state was also the first to address the dangers heat poses to outdoor workers following brutal heat waves in 2005 that took the lives of 10 workers. Cal/OSHA's outdoor heat illness regulation, now known as the Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez Heat Illness Prevention Standard, was adopted on an emergency basis in August 2005 and strengthened in 2015.

Our state has been at the forefront of workplace safety, having taken urgent action during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure front-line workers are safer in the workplace and at home. We have ensured workers have access to paid sick leave and expanded access to job-protected Paid Family Leave and workers' compensation. We have provided temporary housing options for front-line health care workers and farmworkers to help keep their families safe, and helped ensure that essential workers have the child care resources they need. We also prioritized essential workers in our COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

As California recovers and rebuilds from the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue implementing robust policies that protect the health and safety of our workforce. We are committed to listening to workers about what it takes to rebuild a fair, green and prosperous economy, and we remember and honor those who lost their lives while on the job.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2021, as "Workers' Memorial Day."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

---

GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

---

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.  
Secretary of State