



AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

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Chris Spear
President & Chief Executive Officer

March 20, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Price
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Price:

On behalf of the American Trucking Associations (ATA), I want to congratulate you on becoming the new Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We look forward to working with you to advance the important mission of your Department.

ATA is the largest national trade association representing the trucking industry, with more than 30,000 members. A core interest of our membership is highway safety. We are constantly seeking new and innovative solutions to improve highway safety and so I wanted to alert you to an opportunity to support highway safety and complete an outstanding HHS statutory mandate. Section 5402 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, or FAST Act, (P.L. 114-94) required HHS "to issue scientific and technical guidelines for hair testing as a method of detecting the use of controlled substances for purpose of section 31306 of Title 49, United States Code" by December 4, 2016. Completion of this already overdue mandate will unlock tremendous safety benefits by providing trucking companies with the option to use hair testing as an alternative to urinalysis in meeting Federal drug testing requirements.

Federal law requires trucking companies to drug test new drivers and randomly test existing drivers using methods established by HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Currently, SAMHSA only recognizes urinalysis, despite the inherent advantages of hair testing, which provides employers with a longer detection window and is easier to collect and harder to adulterate than urinalysis.

SAMHSA has long expressed an interest in recognizing hair testing as a federally-accepted drug-testing method, but the lack of action is having real impacts on the industry. Many trucking companies are using urinalysis to meet the federal requirements while also paying the additional cost to conduct hair testing. We are frustrated that the previous Administration failed to meet the statutory deadline and

believe your leadership will finally see a resolution to this long-standing and important safety rule.

Therefore, we ask for your Department's swift action to complete these guidelines. Doing so will pave the way for trucking companies to greater utilize this pro-safety testing method and better identify safety-sensitive employees who violate federal drug testing regulations.

Congratulations again on your confirmation. We look forward to working with you and your Department to advance this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Spear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Chris Spear
President & CEO
American Trucking Associations