



## Congresswoman Cori Bush

According to the National Weather Service, dozens of people are killed by high winds each year, grouping it with heat, flooding, and rip currents as the leading weather-related dangers residents of the United States face. Many of these tragedies happen due to unsafe conditions at work.

This Wind Safety Standard Act would require OSHA to create a Wind Safety Standard modeled after the Heat Safety Standard to protect workers put in danger in the workplace by high wind conditions. *Workers currently do not have consistent or comprehensive protections when working and/or operating machinery in high winds.* This bill would require relevant employers to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace wind protection plan to protect employees from excessive winds that may lead to wind-related workplace injuries. Additionally, employees would be protected from discrimination or retaliation for exercising these rights.

Specifically, the Wind Safety Standard Act would:

- **Require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to create a Wind Safety Standard** modeled after the Heat Safety Standard to protect workers from workplace injuries during high wind conditions. It would develop a federal standard for what must be done by employers to keep workers safe in the event of high winds. For example, there may be maximum wind speeds at which a scissor lift or window-washing harness may be safely used.
- **Require employers** to monitor wind conditions, provide safety training, and create emergency high wind plans that include shelter in place and evacuation plans
- **Include protections for workers outdoors** (e.g. wind turbine technicians, window washers, cherry picker electrical work) **and indoors** (e.g. workers in shoddy warehouses during tornado and hurricane events) so there are clear standards covering when it is safe or isn't to work in high winds.
- **Set a standard for high winds** to be those that could knock an employee off an elevated location, cause them to lose control of materials, or expose them to additional hazards
  - Assumes that 40mph winds (or 30mph when handling materials) will be considered to be high winds

The **Wind Safety Standard Act** is supported by United for Respect, Missouri Workers Center, Taproot Earth, Center for Biological Diversity, Green Workers Alliance, Our Revolution, GreenLatinos, Labor Network for Sustainability, St. Louis DSA, and SEIU HCIIMK.