In 2019, Worksafe partnered with the California Labor Federation to organize support, submit comments, and testify in support of more protective health and safety standards on a variety of issues: discrimination, retaliation, and employer responsibilities for providing critical protections like minimum wage, health insurance, and sick leave.

In 2019, Worksafe also organized a coalition of low-wage workers to support the passage of AB 5 (Gonzalez), a bill that clarified the employment status for temporary and gig workers, effectively preventing employers from misclassifying workers as independent contractors. This new California law is a big deal because it clarifies the responsibilities of employers and provides workers with basic labor protections.

One of our big victories this year was the passage of AB 5 (Gonzalez), a bill that clarified the employment status for temporary and gig workers, effectively preventing employers from misclassifying workers as independent contractors.

This year Worksafe continued our leadership in the California Alliance for Worker Safety, involving many friends in the labor, public health, and legal communities,” says Doug. “Many employers and policymakers would not be possible but for the incredible welcome and support I received and we are confident that Doug’s experience at Worksafe will help him continue to make the workplace safer and healthier for California workers. We believe that all workers deserve a safe and healthy workplace.

Every year, Worksafe recognizes outstanding leaders and campaigns at our annual Lifting Up Health & Safety Heroes event. We envision a world where all workers are safe and healthy. In 2019, we honored Cheryl Wallach with the Tides Foundation Award for her vision and leadership to build the health movement. In 2019, we also honored Suzanne Teran with the California Teachers Association’s 2019 Scholar of the Year award for her published research and advocacy on the impacts of job stress on the health of workers and their children. Her scholarship and advocacy have led to policy changes to support the health of workers and their families.

During Workers Memorial Week 2019, Worksafe published our eighth Dying at Work in California report to raise awareness about the connections between work and health. We strive to build collective understanding of how work affects health and support policies that protect workers.

We believe in the expertise of workers and their ability to advocate for workplace change. We know that there is dignity in all work and all workers. We seek to amplify the voices of workers through organizing, policy campaigns, and worker advocacy. We believe that all workers deserve a safe and healthy workplace — and that includes the right to advocate for ourselves and our families.

In the coming year, we will continue developing a long-term agenda while engaging in organizing and policy campaigns on specific issues such as discrimination, retaliation, and employer responsibilities for providing critical protections like minimum wage, health insurance, and sick leave. We will continue to spread powerful messages of worker rights and worker justice to the workplace.

Our annual report provides insight into the work we do. The report features highlights of our work, stories of the people we serve, and examples of the impact of our work. It is also a tool for Worksafe to reflect on our work and to plan for the future.

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