THE BUSH ERGONOMICS 'PLAN'
All Talk and No Protection for Workers

After more than one year and 1.8 million ergonomic injuries, the Bush administration has given us a "plan" that contains:

- No mandatory standard, but instead a promise to issue **voluntary guidelines**. Except for nursing homes, the administration refuses to identify which industries it will target. And, these guidelines will not be used for enforcement even when they blatantly are violated.

- **Enforcement under the General Duty Clause**, a process that has proven extremely time consuming, expensive and burdensome, and OSHA only considers this after large numbers of workers have been injured seriously.

- **Compliance Assistance**, including training grants and fact sheets, measures that have been used for the past 10 years but which have failed to significantly reduce the number of MSDs plaguing American workers. Meanwhile, the administration wants to cut OSHA's compliance assistance budget, including a $7 million, 64 percent cut in the worker training grant program.

- An unneeded and redundant Department of Labor **Research Committee** that will provide a forum for those who continue to insist there is no science and repeats the work already done by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Meanwhile, the administration wants to cut $28 million from the NIOSH research budget.

- OSHA refuses to say how it wants employers to define a musculoskeletal disorder.

- This whole "plan" only applies to the 29 states that are under federal jurisdiction.

TELL PRESIDENT BUSH THAT WORKERS NEED REAL PROTECTIONS.

ASK YOUR SENATORS TO PASS THE BREAUX-SPECTER BILL (S. 2184) TO REQUIRE OSHA TO ISSUE A NEW ERGONOMICS STANDARD.

Protect Workers Now!
Stop the Pain.