

Written Testimony of Myron Harper
Health & Safety Director
Cintas Corporation
House Education & Workforce Committee
Workforce Protections Subcommittee
Safe Workplaces, Stronger Partnerships: The Future of OSHA Compliance Assistance
July 16, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Mackenzie, Ranking Member Omar and members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to testify on the importance of the Voluntary Protection Program. My name is Myron Harper, and I am Director of Health & Safety for Cintas Corporation.

Cintas is dedicated to helping more than one million businesses of all types and sizes get ready to open their doors with confidence by providing a wide range of products, including uniforms, mats, mops, restroom supplies, first aid and safety products, fire protection services, and safety training.

Cintas' operations and facilities touch almost every corner of the United States, and our employee-partners are a driving force behind our shared accomplishments. Cintas employs approximately 47,000 employee-partners in our workforce today and our overarching goal is to ensure everyone returns home safely at the end of the day.

With over twenty years at Cintas, I have held various roles in operations and safety, focusing on collaborative efforts that involve multiple teams and committees. Our initiatives aim to educate and engage our partners, enhance our safety systems, and ultimately reduce or eliminate workplace injuries.

I would like to take a moment to discuss our health and safety management system and the pivotal role that the Voluntary Protection Program plays in our success.

A foundational element of our corporate culture is genuine care for our partners, customers, vendors and contractors. This drives our health and safety vision and affirms our commitment to promoting a healthier and safer workplace every day.

We accomplish this through the Cintas Health & Safety Management System, modeled after the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program. This program is widely recognized as a standard for health and safety excellence, addressed through four primary elements:

- Management Leadership and Employee Involvement,
- Worksite Analysis,
- Hazard Prevention and Control,
- and Safety and Health Training

Cintas proudly upholds its commitment to OSHA's VPP Star Program, setting a new standard for U.S. businesses and serving as a crucial part in maintaining healthy and safe work environments. Since the certification of our first site in 2010, an impressive 139 additional Cintas facilities nationwide have achieved VPP Star certification.

I have been fortunate to have personally led several Cintas locations to achieve VPP status. As members of this Subcommittee are aware, achieving VPP Star certification is a rigorous process. Our locations must show that all partners work together proactively to prevent workplace incidents. This is accomplished by implementing a comprehensive health and safety management system and maintaining injury and illness rates below the national industry averages reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

As with many successful programs, the key to success is rarely found within one's own walls. In fact, a critical component of this program's success is the outreach to other sites and the role OSHA plays as a partner.

In this vein, I also serve as a director-at-large on the National and Region-V Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association (VPPPA) respective Boards, and I am a certified Special Government Employee (SGE) through OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. As an SGE, I have the opportunity to engage with peers through multiple educational opportunities, active mentoring, and by participating in onsite evaluations.

Our relationship with OSHA is also an integral part of the VPP program and our ongoing goal to ensure every location is free from injury, illness, collision and fire. Even though OSHA works together with sites to find solutions and give feedback, we are held to an even higher standard and are still subject to audits and evaluations post-certification. This has held true dating back to our first location being certified more than 15 years ago and remains critical to the success of the program today. In short, collaboration is key, but when needed, enforcement remains an essential tool for OSHA.

I would like to publicly thank Congresswoman Diane Harshbarger and Congressman Mike Thompson, the bipartisan cosponsors of H.R. 2844, the Michael Enzi Voluntary Protection Program Act. Passage of this legislation would ensure the long-term success and stability of this program, and I'm hopeful this Committee and Congress will advance this legislation during the 119th Congress.

Thank you again to the Subcommittee for the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to any questions you have at the appropriate time.

XXX