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science. On the contrary, under Dr. Robbins' direction, NIOSH has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the re-evaluation of all available data with only one thought in mind: the protection of the worker. The current workplace standard governing asbestos exposure was OSHA's first comprehensive health standard. It is based on data that was assembled and analyzed during the mid-sixties, if not the infancy certainly the childhood of occupational health. Much has been learned in the laboratory and in the workplace since then, as this report indicates. In view of what we know now, OSHA's current standard needs major improvements.

The report is cause for hope because, contrary to some of OSHA's critics, the agency's regulations are not carved in stone. They are instead a reflection of the best science available. As science continues to improve, so will OSHA's health standards, and worker protection. The report we are issuing today demands corrective action. We will begin immediately.

We have designated a team within OSHA to begin working on a proposed revision to the present OSHA

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