The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 works to ensure that miners return home safe and healthy at the end of every shift. Since 1977, mine fatality rates have decreased by 82%.

The 1977 act fortified worker protections for all miners and strengthened the civil penalty assessments process for safety violations. It also called for training and retraining of miners, compensation when a mine is idled for safety violations and enhanced anti-discrimination provisions.