



March 2, 2020

Dear Senator/Representative:

The year 2020 marks a major milestone in public health: it is the fiftieth anniversary of the bipartisan Clean Air Act. Throughout its history, the Clean Air Act has proven time and time again to be one of the most powerful tools the nation has to protect public health, and in the face of the public health emergency posed by climate change, the law is more important and relevant than ever. **The undersigned public health, medical and nursing organizations urge you to commit to leaving the Clean Air Act fully in place in any legislation to address climate change.**

Millions of Americans are breathing cleaner, healthier air than they would have without this landmark legislation. Safeguards put in place under the Clean Air Act have reduced pollution from major categories of pollutants by 73% over the past 50 years, preventing hundreds of thousands of premature deaths and millions of asthma attacks. EPA estimated that the benefits exceed the costs by a ratio of 30 to 1.¹

The need to act on climate change and avoid the worst health impacts is now more urgent than ever. The health and medical community is pleased to see that members of Congress and committees have taken action to discuss, draft, and introduce legislation to reduce emissions.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/benefits-and-costs-clean-air-act-1990-2020-second-prospective-study>

However, some proposals make an unacceptable tradeoff: they would weaken the Clean Air Act by blocking or delaying EPA and states' authority to address climate change. We strongly urge you to reject these proposals.

The undersigned health and medical organizations urge you to not give out concessions to polluting industries by trading away Clean Air Act authority. We need all of the tools in our toolbox to solve the climate crisis and the devastating health risks it poses.

We look forward to continuing to work with Congress to dramatically reduce emissions, help all communities become more resilient to the health impacts of climate change they are already experiencing, and build on the legacy of the Clean Air Act.

We ask that you commit to protect and preserve the Clean Air Act and oppose any attempts to trade away its authority to regulate greenhouse gases. Public health depends on it.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Climate for Health
Health Care Without Harm
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Environmental Health Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility