



National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Jack Reed
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
The Honorable David Price
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Collins, and Ranking Member Reed:

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Price, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Dear Members of Congress:

As organizations committed to protecting the health of children and adults and preserving safe, decent and affordable housing, we ask you today to support full federal funding for the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes and the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program in the FY2017 appropriations bill. As a leader and a legislator, your support makes good business sense: studies show a return of \$17-\$221 per dollar invested in lead hazard control and a net savings of \$181-269 billion.

To achieve these savings for our nation, and to protect our children, we ask that you provide:

- \$35 million for CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program, which would allow the program to expand its surveillance of childhood lead poisoning nationally, and ask you to return the name of the program to "Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention".
- \$230 million for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, including \$35 million for the Healthy Homes program and \$6 million for the Lead Technical Studies Grant Program.

Who will you be helping with your support?

There are **24 million homes in the U.S. with significant lead-based paint hazards** jeopardizing the health and development of millions of children. We know how to address this problem. The Presidential Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children developed a national strategy fifteen years ago to address lead-based paint hazards, which cause the great majority of lead poisoning cases in

the U.S. Specifically, they called for \$230 million in funding annually for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes over ten years to provide lead hazard screening and lead hazard control of pre-1960 housing occupied by low-income families.

This call to action was over a decade ago, and yet CDC estimates that 535,000 children in the U.S. from one to five years old have blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). Childhood lead exposure at these levels can lead to lifelong consequences, including decreased cognitive function, developmental delays, and behavior problems; very high levels can cause seizures, coma, and even death. Children exposed to lead at any level can lose I.Q. points, and at high blood lead levels are seven times more likely to drop out of school than children without harmful lead levels. The annual economic costs to society of lead poisoning alone are over \$50 billion. There is no "safe" level of lead for a child.

What evidence is there that the preventive funds are used wisely?

HUD estimates that ***without its programs' actions to control hazards in over 370,000 housing units, an additional 265,000 children would have been lead poisoned*** and included in CDC's estimate of the number of young children with blood lead levels above 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

Since its inception in 1991, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes has successfully developed programs that directly created over 208,000 lead-safe units, ensured that over 186,000 additional units are lead-safe, and addressed health and safety conditions in over 20,000 substandard housing units. It has improved many more by working with other HUD and federal housing programs. Additionally, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes activities to reduce health and safety hazards in housing units save billions of dollars by increasing productivity and decreasing medical and special education costs. Educational system costs alone are estimated at \$38,000 over three years per child impacted by lead poisoning.

Full funding for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes at \$230 million in FY 2017 will reduce preventable medical and education costs, strengthen the economy, preserve our housing, and keep children healthy and able to learn. Within this office, the Lead Technical Studies Grant Program has helped achieve major breakthroughs such as identifying improved methods of hazard identification and control. A \$6 million appropriation to the Lead Technical Studies Grant Program will continue increasing the already high return on investment provided by this HUD office.

Providing the CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program with \$35 million in FY 2017 (its FY10 funding level) will allow lead poisoning surveillance to be conducted nationally. Unfortunately, current surveillance is limited to 29 states and the District of Columbia due to severe funding cuts. CDC is the only agency that houses the information about where and when children are poisoned, maintaining it through a surveillance system that monitors blood test results for four million children each year. HUD as well as state and local health and housing agencies rely on this surveillance system to best target funds and enforcement to the highest risk areas. The recent funding cuts have geographically restricted the surveillance effort and hurt local health departments in their prevention and case management efforts. Restoring funding to \$35 million and surveillance nationally would enable communities to identify lead poisoning outbreaks in places like Flint early on.

Furthermore, returning the name of this program to "Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention" will allow for a more holistic approach when conducting home assessments. Other hazards in the home, such as radon, mold, carbon monoxide poisoning, and pests, can cause injury and disease. Allowing for programs to inspect, collect data, and perform interventions on a broad array of home health hazards in a single visit makes practical sense and is more cost efficient.

Finally, we urge Congress to restore a ***National Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention***. CDC disbanded this committee in FY12, which was the federal government's only committee devoted solely to preventing childhood lead poisoning. It led the way to analyze the science to support improvements in identifying the risk of lower blood lead levels. It also served as the main conduit for all federal agencies to coordinate their lead activities, address existing threats and more quickly identify emerging threats such as the situation in Flint.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for protecting America's children.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists
American Public Health Association
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Enterprise Community Partners
Environmental Health Watch
Global Green USA
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Habitat for Humanity International
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
March of Dimes
NAHRO
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Environmental Health Association
National Housing Law Project
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nursing Centers Consortium
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Operation Paydirt
Rebuilding Together
Rural LISC
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team
Society for Public Health Education
Union for Reform Judaism

ARIZONA

West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition

Sun City

CALIFORNIA

Alameda County Healthy Homes Department	Oakland
Barr & Clark, Inc.	Huntington Beach
Center for Environmental Health	Oakland
ChangeLab Solutions	Oakland
City of Chino	Chino
Environmental Lead Detect Inc.	San Francisco
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation	Los Angeles
FRJ and Associates	Riverside
Healthy Homes Collaborative	Los Angeles
Huntington Harbour Real Estate	Sunset Beach
Marshall's Farm Honey	Napa and American Canyon
Mutual Housing California	Sacramento
Occupational Knowledge International	San Francisco
Prevention Institute	Oakland
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention	Oakland
So Cal Construction Services	La Mirada
The Phase One Group	Diamond Bar

CONNECTICUT

Bridgeport Health Department Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	Bridgeport
Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program	Hartford
EnviroPlan LLC	West Hartford
West Haven Health Department	West Haven

IDAHO

Gary E. Hanes & Associates, LLC	Boise
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ILLINOIS

Allied Radon Services, Inc.	Mt. Vernon
Civitas ChildLaw Center, Loyola University Chicago School of Law	Chicago
Chicago Department of Public Health	Chicago
Cook County Dept. Public Health	Chicago
Health Justice Project	Chicago
Metropolitan Tenants Organization	Chicago
Northwestern Pritzker Law School	Chicago

INDIANA

Environmental Management Institute	Indianapolis
Improving Kids' Environment	Indianapolis

IOWA

IPAL-IOWA PARENTS AGAINST LEAD POISONING	Independence
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KANSAS

Freedom Healthy Choices Community Development Corporation	Kansas City
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KENTUCKY

LockUpLead

Louisville

LOUISIANA

A Community Voice - Louisiana

New Orleans

Louisiana Roundtable for the Environment

New Orleans

MASSACHUSETTS

Alpine Environmental Inc.

Chelmsford

ASAP Environmental

Dorchester

Asthma Regional Council of New England

Boston

Dr. David Bellinger, Harvard Medical School, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Citizen)

Boston

Boston Public Health Commission

Boston

Health Resources in Action

Boston

Lead and Environmental Hazards Association

Chelmsford

Marissa Hauptman (Citizen)

Boston

Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership (MAAP)

Boston

UMass Lowell New England Healthy Homes Training Center

Lowell

MICHIGAN

CLEARCorps Detroit

Detroit

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Detroit-Wayne County

Detroit

Habitat for Humanity Detroit

Detroit

Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan

Grand Rapids

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health

Lansing

Michigan Environmental Council

Lansing

Siena Heights University

Adrian

Steven Leggat (Citizen)

Detroit

The Arc Michigan

Lansing

MINNESOTA

CLEARCorps USA

Saint Paul

Sustainable Resources Center

Minneapolis

MISSISSIPPI

FM-CONSULT-CREATE

Jackson

NEBRASKA

Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance

Omaha

NEVADA

UNLV-SEPA

Las Vegas

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Public Health Assn

Goffstown

NEW YORK

Able Safety Consulting LLC	Massapequa Park
Burnette AirFarm	Rochester
City Of Rochester	Rochester
Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning	Rochester
LEADSAFE Erie County	Buffalo
Lergent Corp.	Massapequa Park
ProsperRochester, Inc.	Rochester
Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy Network, Inc.	St. Albans
Rochester City School District	Rochester
Schuyler County Public Health Department	Watkins Glen
United Way of Long Island	Deer Park
Western New York Lead Poisoning Resource Center	Rochester

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro Housing Coalition	Greensboro
Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health (PEACH)	Durham
Reinvestment Partners	Durham

OHIO

Brenda Elliott (Citizen)	Toledo
CCOAL - Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead	Cleveland
James and Betty Cantley, Parents of a lead poisoned child (Citizens)	Grafton
Lorain County General Health District	Elyria
Ohio Healthy Homes Network	Columbus
Ohio Public Health Association	Columbus
Rebuilding Together Central Ohio	Columbus
Toledo Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition	Toledo

PENNSYLVANIA

Kynett Foundation	Philadelphia
PinnacleHealth Lead and Healthy Homes Program	Harrisburg
Temple University Beasley School of Law	Philadelphia
Widener University	Chester

RHODE ISLAND

Childhood Lead Action Project	Providence
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TEXAS

Brenda M. Reyes Consulting	Houston
Houston Health Department	Houston

VERMONT

Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition	Burlington
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board	Montpelier

VIRGINIA

Environmental Dynamics Inc.
Environmental Hazards Services
INLOGIX Enterprises LLC

Sterling
Richmond
Fairfax

WASHINGTON

City of Federal Way
INND
Tenants Union of Washington

Federal Way
Seattle
Seattle

WISCONSIN

Amy Murphy Consulting
Lead Safe Milwaukee

Milwaukee
Milwaukee