

Letter regarding HUD Funding

May X, 2010

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2011 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, we urge your support for cost-effective, evidence-based healthy housing programming. We respectfully request \$175 million in healthy housing funding.

On June 9, 2009, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a call to action on healthy homes. The Surgeon General declared, “To improve the nation’s overall health, we must improve the health of the nation’s homes and ensure that safe, healthy, affordable, accessible, and environmentally friendly homes are available to everyone in the United States.”

Lead poisoning still impacts approximately 250,000 children in the United States every year. Repeated studies have linked lead poisoning with developmental delays, attention deficit disorder, IQ reductions, hearing loss, sight problems, and other chronic health conditions. Eliminating lead poisoning is one of the nation’s top environmental health priorities, and we must finish the task.

Not only can housing interventions prevent lead poisoning, but they can also prevent injuries, reduce fire-related deaths, and decrease the burden of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Smoke detectors reduce the likelihood of deaths due to fire by 50%. Moisture and mold exacerbate asthma, costing the United States at least \$3.5 billion dollars in medical and other costs every year. The Healthy Homes Program has developed successful housing programs that have shown statistically significant reductions in morbidity and mortality.

Thank you for your support of lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing. Investing in healthy, safe housing is a cost effective means of keeping Americans healthy, reducing unnecessary costs to the medical system, and strengthening our economy.

Sincerely,
