



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, we are writing to express our vigorous support for continued federal funding for the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes and fully restored federal funding for the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. We respectfully urge you to provide \$120 million for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, including \$25 million for the Healthy Homes Program, and \$29 million for CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 appropriations bill. Robust support for these programs is essential for supporting communities seeking to protect children at the highest risk of lead poisoning from hazards in their homes and further ensuring that children at the highest risk of lead poisoning will have access to critical services that can prevent the onset of future disability.

Lead poisoning, which is 100% preventable, remains a significant environmental public health threat. 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 can lose I.Q. points and are six 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.

There are 24 million homes in the U.S. with lead-based paint hazards jeopardizing the health and development of millions of children. Since its inception in 1993, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes program has successfully

developed programs that created 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.

Additionally, HUD estimates that without its programs' actions to control hazards in over 370,000 housing units, an additional 265,000 children would have been included in CDC's estimate of the number of young children with blood lead levels above 5 µg/dL. Providing \$120 million in FY 2016 to the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is crucial to its continued success.

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 with lead poisoning. Studies show a return of \$17-\$221 per dollar invested in lead hazard control and a net savings of \$181-269 billion. Funding for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes at \$120 million in FY 2016 will reduce preventable medical and education costs, strengthen the economy, and keep children healthy.

During the last two decades, CDC has delivered a cost-effective program to prevent lead poisoning and help children who have already been exposed to lead. CDC is the only agency that houses the information about where and when children are poisoned, maintaining it through a national surveillance system that monitors blood test results for four million children each year. State health and housing agencies rely on this surveillance system to best target funds and enforcement to the highest risk areas. An FY 2016 funding level of \$29 million for CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program would allow 36 sites to go beyond surveillance activities to implement critical prevention strategies to control or eliminate sources of lead in environments of at-risk children. Providing \$29 million in FY 2016 to CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is crucial to allowing the CDC to fund state and local health departments, screen children, ensure that lead-poisoned infants and children receive medical and environmental follow-up, and prevent childhood lead poisoning through neighborhood-based approaches.

Again, we urge your support in funding these critical programs and continued support of lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing efforts. We appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS		
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials	Arlington	VA
CLEARCorps USA	Detroit	MI
Habitat for Humanity International	Washington	DC
Lead and Environmental Hazards Association		MD
National Association for State Community Services Programs	Washington	DC
National Association of Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees	Olney	MD
National Environmental Health Association	Denver	CO
National Center for Healthy Housing	Columbia	MD

National Low Income Housing Coalition	Washington	DC
National Nursing Centers Consortium	Philadelphia	PA
Rebuilding Together, Inc.	Washington	DC
CALIFORNIA		
Alameda County Healthy Homes Department	Los Angeles	CA
Barr & Clark, Inc.	Garden Grove	CA
Center for Environmental Health	Oakland	CA
Healthy Homes Collaborative	Los Angeles	CA
Inquilinos Unidos	Los Angeles	CA
Jordan Consulting	Oakland	CA
Mutual Housing California	Sacramento	CA
QueensCare Health Centers	Los Angeles	CA
Southern California Health and Housing Council	Long Beach	CA
CONNECTICUT		
City of New Haven, CT Health Department	New Haven	CT
Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program	Hartford	CT
EnviroPlan, LLC	West Hartford	CT
West Haven Health Department	West Haven	CT
GEORGIA		
Georgia Department of Public Health	Atlanta	GA
ILLINOIS		
Advancing Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities, Loyola University Chicago	Chicago	IL
American Patriot, LLC	Chicago	IL
Chicago Department of Public Health	Chicago	IL
Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction, Inc.	Waterloo	IL
INDIANA		
Improving Kids' Environment (IKE)	Indianapolis	IN
IOWA		

City of Dubuque, Iowa	Dubuque	IA
LOUISIANA		
A Community Voice—Louisiana	New Orleans	LA
Louisiana Environmental Roundtable on Children’s Health	New Orleans	LA
Southern United Neighborhoods	New Orleans	LA
MARYLAND		
Green and Healthy Homes Initiative	Baltimore	MD
MASSACHUSETTS		
Asthma Regional Council of New England	Boston	MA
Health Resources in Action	Boston	MA
UMass Lowell New England Healthy Homes Training Center	Lowell	MA
MICHIGAN		
CLEARCorps Detroit	Detroit	MI
Courtney Wisinski (Citizen)	Okemos	MI
Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan	Grand Rapids	MI
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health	Lansing	MI
Siena Heights University	Adrian	MI
Wayne Metro Community Action Agency	Taylor	MI
MINNESOTA		
Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership	Slayton	MN
MISSISSIPPI		
FM-Consult-Create	Jackson	MS
NEBRASKA		
Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance	Omaha	NE
NEVADA		
Dr. Kathleen Lauckner (Citizen)	Las Vegas	NV
University of Nevada—Las Vegas (UNLV)	Las Vegas	NV

NEW HAMPSHIRE		
New England Health and Housing	Manchester	NH
NEW YORK		
Brooklyn Housing and Family Services, Inc.	Brooklyn	NY
City of Rochester	Rochester	NY
Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning	Rochester	NY
LEADSAFE Erie County	Buffalo	NY
Rochester City School District	Rochester	NY
WE ACT for Environmental Justice	New York	NY
NORTH CAROLINA		
Concerned Citizen Raleigh, NC	Raleigh	NC
Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health	Durham	NC
Reinvestment Partners	Durham	NC
OHIO		
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.	Toledo	OH
Betty Cantley (Citizen)	Cleveland	OH
Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead (CCOAL)	Cleveland	OH
Environmental Health Watch	Cleveland	OH
Ohio Healthy Homes Network	Columbus	OH
Toledo Public Schools	Toledo	OH
OKLAHOMA		
Local Environmental Action Demanded	Vinita	OK
Oklahoma Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	Oklahoma City	OK
PENNSYLVANIA		
J. Miller & Associates, Inc.	Philadelphia	PA
PinnacleHealth Lead and Healthy Homes Program	Harrisburg	PA
RHODE ISLAND		
Childhood Lead Action Project	Providence	RI

Mommy & Me of Newport	Portsmouth	RI
Refugee Development Center, Inc.	Providence	RI
TEXAS		
Dr. Harold J. Farber	Houston	TX
Houston Department of Health and Human Services	Houston	TX
VERMONT		
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition	Burlington	VT
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board	Montpelier	VT
VIRGINIA		
Pathways, Inc.	Petersburg	VA
Shalom Homes, Inc.	Petersburg	VA
WASHINGTON		
Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders	Seattle	WA
Washington State Asthma Initiative	Olympia	WA