



## 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 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 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 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 |

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|---|---------------|----|
| National Low Income Housing Coalition   | Washington    | DC |
| National Nursing Centers Consortium   | Philadelphia  | PA |
| Rebuilding Together, Inc.   | Washington    | DC |
|   |               |    |
| <b>CALIFORNIA</b>   |               |    |
| 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 |
|   |               |    |
| <b>CONNECTICUT</b>  |               |    |
| 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 |
|   |               |    |
| <b>GEORGIA</b>  |               |    |
| Georgia Department of Public Health   | Atlanta       | GA |
|   |               |    |
| <b>ILLINOIS</b>   |               |    |
| Advancing Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities,<br>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 |
|   |               |    |
| <b>INDIANA</b>  |               |    |
| Improving Kids' Environment (IKE)   | Indianapolis  | IN |
|   |               |    |
| <b>IOWA</b>   |               |    |

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|---|--------------|----|
| City of Dubuque, Iowa                                   | Dubuque      | IA |
|   |              |    |
| <b>LOUISIANA</b>  |              |    |
| A Community Voice—Louisiana                             | New Orleans  | LA |
| Louisiana Environmental Roundtable on Children's Health | New Orleans  | LA |
| Southern United Neighborhoods                           | New Orleans  | LA |
|   |              |    |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>   |              |    |
| Green and Healthy Homes Initiative                      | Baltimore    | MD |
|   |              |    |
| <b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>                                    |              |    |
| Asthma Regional Council of New England                  | Boston       | MA |
| Health Resources in Action                              | Boston       | MA |
| UMass Lowell New England Healthy Homes Training Center  | Lowell       | MA |
|   |              |    |
| <b>MICHIGAN</b>   |              |    |
| 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 |
|   |              |    |
| <b>MINNESOTA</b>  |              |    |
| Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership                 | Slayton      | MN |
|   |              |    |
| <b>MISSISSIPPI</b>                                      |              |    |
| FM-Consult-Create                                       | Jackson      | MS |
|   |              |    |
| <b>NEBRASKA</b>   |              |    |
| Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance                             | Omaha        | NE |
|   |              |    |
| <b>NEVADA</b>   |              |    |
| Dr. Kathleen Lauckner (Citizen)                         | Las Vegas    | NV |
| University of Nevada—Las Vegas (UNLV)                   | Las Vegas    | NV |

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| <b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>  |               |    |
| New England Health and Housing                              | Manchester    | NH |
|   |               |    |
| <b>NEW YORK</b>   |               |    |
| 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 |
|   |               |    |
| <b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>                                       |               |    |
| Concerned Citizen Raleigh, NC                               | Raleigh       | NC |
| Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health | Durham        | NC |
| Reinvestment Partners                                       | Durham        | NC |
|   |               |    |
| <b>OHIO</b>   |               |    |
| 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 |
|   |               |    |
| <b>OKLAHOMA</b>   |               |    |
| Local Environmental Action Demanded                         | Vinita        | OK |
| Oklahoma Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program        | Oklahoma City | OK |
|   |               |    |
| <b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>   |               |    |
| J. Miller & Associates, Inc.                                | Philadelphia  | PA |
| PinnacleHealth Lead and Healthy Homes Program               | Harrisburg    | PA |
|   |               |    |
| <b>RHODE ISLAND</b>   |               |    |
| Childhood Lead Action Project                               | Providence    | RI |

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