



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
Coalition on Human Needs
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
Health Resources in Action
Julia Lead The Way Lead Poisoning Awareness Group
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
March of Dimes
Moms Rising
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

Inner City Law Center

Los Angeles

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

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

KANSAS

Freedom Healthy Choices Community Development Corporation Kansas City

KENTUCKY

LockUpLead Louisville

LOUISIANA

A Community Voice - Louisiana New Orleans

Louisiana Roundtable for the Environment New Orleans

MAINE

Healthy Androscoggin Lewiston

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

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

WE ACT

New York City

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 Fair Housing Center

Toledo

Toledo Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition

Toledo

PENNSYLVANIA

Kynett Foundation

Philadelphia

PinnacleHealth Lead and Healthy Homes Program

Harrisburg

Public Citizens for Children and Youth

Philadelphia

Temple University Beasley School of Law

Philadelphia

Widener University

Chester

RHODE ISLAND

Childhood Lead Action Project

Providence

TEXAS

Brenda M. Reyes Consulting

Houston

Houston Health Department

Houston

VERMONT

Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Burlington
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
Testudo LLC

Milwaukee
Milwaukee
Madison