

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2009

ELIMINATE CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING AND REDUCE HEALTH HAZARDS IN HOUSING

Dear Colleague:

Please join us sending the attached letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development to express support for \$225 million for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control for FY 2010.

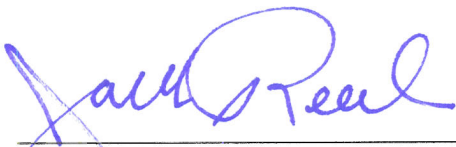
Lead paint and other housing-related health hazards are still a clear and serious risk to families across the country. According to HUD statistics, 23 million homes in the United States have significant lead-based paint hazards leading to an estimated 240,000 children under the age of six present with blood-lead levels high enough to cause irreversible neurological damage and significant learning difficulties. Further, 5.7 million households live in homes with moderate or severe hazards such as incomplete cooking facilities, inadequate plumbing, the presence of mice and rats, and crumbling roofs and foundations. Housing-related health hazards take a heavy toll on Americans, resulting in 11,000 unintentional injury deaths, 3,000 deaths in house fires, and 21,000 radon-associated lung cancer deaths each year. As our housing deteriorates, our health care system bears the brunt of the associated injuries and illnesses.

HUD's lead hazard control and healthy homes grant programs are highly targeted to low-income, child-occupied, high-risk properties. Yet, in 2008, HUD was only able to fund 47% of eligible lead hazard control grant applications, and 20% of eligible healthy home demonstration grant applications. Although the one-time infusion of economic recovery resources enabled HUD to fund applicants who were eligible but not awarded during the 2008 grant cycle, it is clear that a higher funding commitment is needed to meet the burgeoning demand.

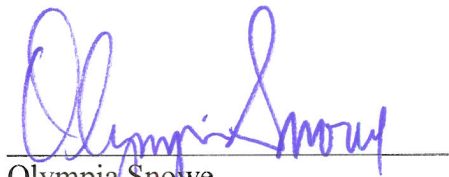
With adequate funding, HUD's successful lead and healthy homes programs can help achieve the goal of ending childhood lead poisoning, and help prevent other housing-related illnesses and injuries so that no family is forced to choose between affordability and safety.

We hope that you will join us in requesting at least \$225 million for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. To sign on, please contact Andrew Odgren with Senator Jack Reed's office at 224-4642, or Henry Hanscom with Senator Olympia Snowe's office at 224-5344. The deadline to sign the letter is May 11, 2009.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Olympia Snowe
United States Senator