



February 17, 2011

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition, which represents a diverse group of public health, affordable housing, environmental, and energy-efficiency advocates, urges you to reconsider and reject the deep cuts in a host of federal healthy homes programs proposed in H.R.1 that are essential to protecting the nation's children and families. We are deeply concerned that imposing such abrupt funding reductions will shred the protections that all Americans take for granted and will have unintended consequences that will be acceptable to no one.

The undersigned work hand-in-hand with federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address hazards in housing and reduce asthma, lead poisoning, and injuries among our nation's children and families. Our approach is to invest in preventing these health impacts now, rather than to pay later in lost workforce productivity and expenses to our health care and special education systems.

The cumulative magnitude of the proposed cuts will place a great burden on states and localities, add to job losses, and further weaken the federal-state-local infrastructure that is essential to protect the health of Americans.

**CDC:** A massive reduction to CDC will jeopardize public health by arresting key healthy homes efforts and other programs. Using the Prevention and Public Health Fund to offset cuts in other ongoing CDC activities is wholly inconsistent with the Fund's purpose of advancing prevention by supplementing current prevention and public health resources.

**HUD:** HUD's Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Program has been ranked among the most successful federal government programs, with a high return on investment. Cutting this program will deny communities the resources to eliminate childhood lead poisoning and to reduce the burden of asthma. These diseases are most prevalent among our nation's most vulnerable, including low-income and minority children and families. These cuts will further exacerbate existing health disparities.

**EPA:** EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP) protects 1.4 million children from lead poisoning each year. The proposed continuing resolution will hamper EPA's ability to enforce this lead safety rule.

Once again, we urge you to oppose the substantial cuts to healthy homes programs in the Continuing Resolution and a number of proposed amendments. Now is the time to increase, rather than decrease our ability to adequately protect our nation's children and families.

Thank you for your attention to protecting children from lead and other hazards in their homes.

## **National Organizations (\*=member of NSHHC steering committee)**

National Center for Healthy Housing\*  
Allergy & Asthma Foundation of America  
American Society of Home Inspectors\*  
Children's Health Forum\*  
ClearCORPS USA  
Lead & Environmental Health Association  
National Association of Lead & Healthy Homes Grantees  
National Association for State Community Services Programs  
National Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning\*  
Public Health Law & Policy  
Rebuilding Together\*  
US Green Building Council\*

## **Local and State Organizations and Individuals**

Bay Area Get the Lead Out Coalition, San Francisco (CA-6-16)  
Linda Kite, Healthy Homes Collaborative, Los Angeles (CA)  
Jim Ratti, Environmental Lead Detect, San Francisco (CA)  
Dennis Jordan, Alameda County (CA-9)  
Perry Gottesfeld, Occupational Knowledge International, San Francisco (CA)  
Tom Phillips (CA-3)  
Audrey M. Gaines, Bridgeport (CT-4)  
Lydia Brannin, Naugatuck Valley Health District, Seymour (CT)  
Neil Freuden, EnviroPlan LLC, West Hartford (CT-1)  
Penelope Craig, BLC Environmental Training and Assessment, Middletown (CT-1, 2)  
Angela Wyan, Lead Safe DC (DC)  
Ralph Scott, Parents for Non-Toxic Alternatives, Washington (DC)  
Dawn Biehler, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Systems Gender and Women's Studies Program University of Maryland, Baltimore County (DC)  
Wesley Edwards, Ph.D., Affordable housing consultant, Hamilton (GA)  
Anita Weinberg, Illinois Lead Safe Housing Task Force (IL)  
Earl Coleman, Rick Lara, Sabina Sangoleye and Cheryl Judon, Chicago (IL-2)  
Kevin Comer, Chicago (IL-3)  
Patti S. Gregory-Chang, Chicago (IL-5)  
Rachel Rosenberg, Executive Director, Safer Pest Control Project, Chicago (IL)  
Emma Davis, Southeast Chicago Development Commission (IL)  
David Becker, Center of Neighborhood Technology Energy, Chicago (IL)  
William Villalona (IL-5)  
Boston Healthy Homes/Schools Collaborative; Health Resources in Action (MA-8, 9)  
Stephen Frantz, Principal, Global Environmental Options (MA-2)  
Megan Sandel MD, Boston Medical Center (MA)  
David Turcotte, Chairperson, Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership's Healthy Housing Committee; Research Professor, UMass Lowell (MA)  
Richard Rabin, Arlington (MA)

Elisabeth Fost Maring, Ph.D., Family Life Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, Department of Family Science (MD-5)  
Courtney L. Wisinski, Lansing (MI)  
Paul Haan, Executive Director, Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, Grand Rapids (MI-3)  
Judith Riehl, Executive Director, St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition (MO-3)  
Scott Gigrich, City of Eldon Codes Enforcement Department (MO)  
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Joseph Ponessa, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Housing, Indoor Environment & Health, Rutgers University (NJ)  
Jim Peralta, Lead Paint Risk Assessor, Interstate Property Inspections, Rochester (NY)  
Betsy Mokrzycki, Lead Program Manager, Syracuse (NY-25)  
Pat Smith (NY-23)  
David A. Binstock (NC-4)  
Lorisa Seibel, Interim Executive Director, Durham Affordable Housing Coalition. Durham (NC)  
Phillip Bouton, HHS, Local Practitioner, Columbus (OH 12, 15, 7)  
Marcheta Gillam, Legal Aid Society of Southwest (OH)  
Stu Greenberg, Environmental Health Watch (OH)  
Susan Smith, Mahoning Valley LEAP Grant Program (OH-17)  
Robert Cole, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Toledo (OH-9)  
Kate Monter Durban, Assistant Director, Cleveland Housing Network (OH)  
Kathleen Morris MSA, RN, Columbus (OH-15)  
Armand C. Magnelli, Livable Housing, Inc., York (PA-19)  
Todd Christophel, Lancaster (PA-16)  
Joyce Ravinskas, PinnacleHealth Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Wilkes Barre (PA-11)  
Michelle Lehr O'Connell, MGA, Director of Environmental Health, National Nursing Centers Consortium, Philadelphia (PA)  
Carla C. Campbell, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Attending Pediatrician, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (PA-1)  
Roberta Hazen Aaronson, Childhood Lead Action Project (RI-1, 2)  
Arlene Bowers Andrews, Blythewood (SC-2)  
Faye Ralston, Tennessee Lead Elimination Action Program, Murfreesboro (TN-4, 5)  
Norma Branch (TN-9)  
Elizabeth A. Walsh, Doctoral Student, Community/Regional Planning, University of Texas (TX-25)  
Juan Parras, Executive Director, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, Houston (TX)  
Queen Zakia Shabazz, United Parents Against Lead, Richmond (VA-7)  
Cheryl Whitcomb (WA-1)  
Joe Schirmer, Madison (WI)

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[www.nchh.org/Policy/National-Safe-and-Healthy-Housing-Coalition.aspx](http://www.nchh.org/Policy/National-Safe-and-Healthy-Housing-Coalition.aspx)