

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Pastor
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor,

In considering the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we respectfully request \$120 million for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, including \$25 million for the Healthy Homes Program.

The President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children reports that, "despite progress, lead poisoning remains one of the top childhood environmental health problems today." There are 24 million homes in the U.S. with peeling or chipping lead-based paint or high levels of lead in dust and nearly half million children aged 1-5 with blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter in the U.S., levels that will lead to lifelong cognitive damage. There is no "safe" level of lead exposure for children. Worse, children may not show obvious symptoms, but lead can cause damage to the child's central nervous system, brain, kidneys, nerves, and blood cells.

Since 1993 the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control has offered grants, performed research, enforced regulations, and reached out to communities, all of which has contributed to a reduction in childhood lead poisoning cases by 70%. HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control program has successfully developed programs that created 200,000 lead-free units, ensured that over 185,000 units are lead-safe, and upgraded 20,000 substandard housing units. Providing the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control with \$120 million in FY 2015 is critical to its continued success.

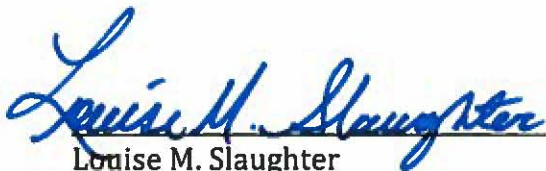
The health improvements triggered by HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control saved billions of dollars by increasing productivity and decreasing medical and special education costs. In 2009, there was a return of \$17-\$221 per dollar invested in lead hazard control and a net savings of \$181-269 billion. Maintaining funding for the Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control program is a

cost-effective way to keep children healthy, reduce unnecessary medical and education costs, and strengthen the economy.

In addition, the Healthy Homes Program is an efficient use of federal housing dollars by ensuring that grantees remediate other serious hazards in the homes of their clients when they are addressing lead. These hazards include asthma triggers, radon, pests, and pesticides. For an average of \$4,000 per unit, healthy homes investments avert future medical costs and help to sustain critical affordable housing by redressing deferred maintenance. The Program's applied research also identifies the housing interventions that produce demonstrable improvements in health and document the best ways to incorporate health considerations into affordable housing and energy efficiency programs.

Thank you for your continued support of lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing. We greatly appreciate your leadership and consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



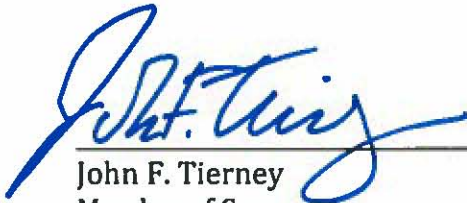
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
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John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress