Unhealthy conditions found in hazardous housing can lead to lead poisoning, asthma, respiratory illness, cancer, and unintentional injuries, resulting in missed school days and poor school performance for children, as well as missed work days for parents. To protect the health of Minnesota families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services:

- CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- CDC’s National Asthma Control Program
- CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network
- HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
- HUD’s Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- EPA’s Lead Categorical Grants
- EPA’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund
- HHS’ Maternal and Child Health Block Grants
- HHS’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program

Full funding to federal programs such as these will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the families and residents of Minnesota, including:

- In Minnesota, 24% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 13% of children live in poverty.
- In 2015, 1,397 Minnesota children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 216 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- 57% of Minnesota housing was built prior to 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Approximately 7.4% of adults and 6.4% of children in Minnesota (2015) have current asthma.
- Children from the Twin Cities metro area are nearly twice as likely to visit an emergency department for asthma as those living in Greater Minnesota.
- Unintentional falls were responsible for 117.8 deaths of adults over the age of 65 per 100,000 in 2015 in Minnesota; the national rate was 60.55 per 100,000.
- Two in five Minnesota homes have elevated levels of radon in their indoor air.

For references, additional state-specific healthy homes information, and to learn how you can engage your members of Congress on these vital issues...

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