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 Ohio 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 Ohio, including:

- In Ohio, 27% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 21% of children live in poverty.
- 66% of Ohio housing was built prior to 1978, and is likely to contain lead-based paint; almost 20% was built in 1939 or earlier.
- Black and Hispanic children in Ohio have much higher asthma diagnosis rates, at 21% and 19% respectively, than white children at 13%.
- In 2014, falls among older adults in Ohio were responsible for a projected $1.9 billion in lifetime costs.
- In 2015, 7,615 of Ohio children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 1,269 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- Approximately 11% of adults and 10% of children have current asthma in Ohio (2014).
- High levels of radon have been found in homes in all of Ohio’s counties, and 40% of Ohio schools have radon amounts higher than the EPA action level.

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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