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 Texas’s 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 residents and families of Texas, including:

- In Texas, **32% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and **23% of children live in poverty**.
- In 1978, **41% of Texas housing was built before 1978** and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- In **1978**, the Panhandle area of Texas has the highest risk for radon in the state. While statewide average indoor testing levels fall within a safe range, homes in this area have reported levels over 20 pCi/l (five times the EPA action level).
- In 2011, **5,693 Texas children tested had an elevated blood lead level** (5 μg/dL or more); **550 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more**.
- In **2012**, there were **over 25,000 hospitalizations**, costing over $652 million, and **over 30,000 pediatric emergency department visits due to asthma** in Texas.
- In 2015, **unintentional falls were responsible for 1,495 deaths among adults over the age of 65** in Texas.
- Over **479,700 children** and **1.3 million adults** in Texas have current asthma, about 7% of the population for each age group (2014).
- In 2011-2015, **on average, 46 individuals die annually from carbon monoxide exposure** in Texas.

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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