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 Utah'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 families and residents of Utah, including:

- In Utah, 26% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 13% of children live in poverty.
- In 2016, 61 children (through age 14) tested with blood lead levels at or above 5 µg/dL in Utah; only 1,116 tests were reported.
- Over 20% of Utah households lack carbon monoxide detectors. In 2014, there were 421 unintentional carbon monoxide exposures reported to the Utah Poison Control Center.
- Over 59,000 children and 178,000 adults in Utah have current asthma, about 7% and 9% of the population for each age group, respectively (2014).
- There were over 7,500 emergency department visits and 1,500 hospitalizations due to asthma in Utah in 2014, with a total cost of $28 million and $20.1 million, respectively.
- 7 counties in eastern and central Utah have predicted average indoor radon levels above the EPA action level. Statewide, 37% of radon test results returned were above the action level.
- Every week, falls among older adults in Utah cause 3 deaths, 61 hospitalizations, and 179 emergency department visits. Of the falls that require hospitalization, 66% take place at home (2012).

National Center for Healthy Housing

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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