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 Colorado’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 State Indoor Radon 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 Colorado, including:

- In Colorado, 31% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 12% of children live in poverty.
- 46% of Colorado housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- In 2016, 260 Colorado children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 64 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more. Less than 7% of the population under 72 months old was tested.
- Between 2005-2018, 17 counties in Colorado had 80% or more of their homes test above the EPA radon action level, and only one county (Sedgwick) had less than 20% of its homes test above the EPA action level.
- In 2017, there were over 17,700 emergency department visits and approximately 2,300 hospitalizations due to asthma in Colorado.
- In 2017, unintentional falls were responsible for 805 deaths among Coloradans over the age of 65.
- On average, 16 Coloradans die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2012-2016).

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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