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 workdays for parents. The requirement for safe and healthy housing has become even more urgent as people spend more time than ever in residential environments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect the health of Massachusetts families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services.

Full funding to federal programs such as those listed above will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the residents and families of Massachusetts. For example:

- In Massachusetts, 31% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 12% of children live in poverty.
- 71% of Massachusetts housing was built prior to 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; just under one third was built in 1939 or earlier.
- Over 10% of adults and 6% of children have current asthma in Massachusetts (2018).
- Every week, falls send approximately 900 older Bay Staters to the emergency department, with 400 being hospitalized.

In 2017, 2,754 Massachusettsan children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 556 of them were 10 μg/dL or higher. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 58.5% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On average, 8 Bay Staters die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2014-2018).

An estimated 650,000 Massachusetts homes have radon levels above the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L; about 34,000 of these have levels above 20 pCi/L.

Approximately 628 cases of radon-related lung cancer occur annually in Massachusetts.

February 2021. For references, additional state-specific healthy homes information, and to learn how you can engage your members of Congress on these vital issues,...

visit: http://bit.ly/StatePro contact: sgoodwin@nchh.org