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 Maine 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 families and residents of Maine, including:

- In Maine, 20% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 13% of children live in poverty.
- 57% of Maine housing was built prior to 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 24% was built in 1939 or earlier.
- Carbon monoxide exposure was responsible for 107 emergency department visits in Maine in 2016.
- Over 13,000 children were screened for lead poisoning in Maine in 2017; 318 were confirmed to have lead levels above 5 μg/dL.
- Asthma was responsible for 5,280 emergency department visits and 421 hospitalizations in Maine in 2016.
- Approximately 11% of adults and 8% children (2017) have current asthma in Maine.
- 222 Mainers aged 65 and older died from unintentional falls in 2017.
- Approximately 75% of counties in Maine are predicted to have indoor radon levels above the EPA standard.

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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