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 Maine 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 Maine. For example:

- In Maine, 22% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 18% of children live in poverty.
- 56% of Maine housing was built prior to 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 23% was built in 1939 or earlier.
- Asthma was responsible for over 5,280 emergency department visits and 421 hospitalizations in Maine in 2016.
- 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. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 25% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approximately 12% of adults and 7% children (2018) have current asthma in Maine.
- 363 Mainers aged 65 and older died from unintentional falls in 2018.
- Approximately 75% of counties in Maine are predicted to have indoor radon levels above the EPA standard.

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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...