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 Minnesota 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 Minnesota. For example:

- In Minnesota, 21% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 12% of children live in poverty.
- 54% of Minnesota housing was built prior to 1978 (16% before 1940) and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Approximately 7% of adults and 7% of children in Minnesota (2016) have current asthma.
- Unintentional falls were responsible for 1,125 deaths of Minnesotans over the age of 65 in 2018.
- In 2018, 1,404 Minnesota children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 428 of them were 10 μg/dL or higher. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 48% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2014, asthma cost Minnesotans an estimated $669.3 million including direct medical expenses and lost workdays. In 2017, there were 55 deaths due to asthma in Minnesota.
- Two in five homes tested in Minnesota have elevated levels of radon in their indoor air.

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,...

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