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 Oklahoma’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 families and residents of Oklahoma, including:

- In Oklahoma, 26% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 21% of children live in poverty.
- Approximately 10% of adults (2017) and 10% of children (2016) have current asthma in Oklahoma.
- In 2012, total charges for asthma-related hospitalizations for Oklahoma were $76.4 million, $18.5 million of which is attributable to 1,928 asthma-related hospitalizations for Oklahoman children under 15 years of age.
- On average, 12 Oklahomans die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2012-2016).
- 9 counties in Oklahoma are categorized as having “moderate potential” for indoor radon levels above the EPA action level.
- In 2017, 538 Oklahoma children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 141 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- Every year, over 450 Oklahomans over the age of 65 die and 7,000 are hospitalized from fall-related injuries.

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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