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 Virginia 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 Virginia. For example:

- In Virginia, 29% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 14% of children live in poverty.
- 46% of Virginia housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Approximately 9% of adults (2018) and 7% of children (2016) have current asthma in Virginia.
- 46 counties and 15 cities in Virginia have predicted average indoor radon levels above the EPA action level.
- In 2016, 793 Virginia children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 229 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or higher.
- In 2013, 7,582 Virginians were hospitalized due to asthma, with total charges over $156.5 million.
- In 2018, unintentional falls were responsible for 837 deaths among Virginians over the age of 65.

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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