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 Vermont 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 Vermont. For example:

- In Vermont, 26% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 12% of children live in poverty.
- 58% of Vermont housing was built prior to 1978 (compared to 53% nationally) and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 26% was built prior to 1940.
- Approximately 8.5% of adults and 9% children have current asthma in Vermont (2018); 81% of them have two or more indoor environmental triggers at home (2015).
- In 2018, 160 Vermonters over the age of 65 died from unintentional falls.
- In 2017, 9,791 Vermonter children received blood lead screenings; 157 of them had lead levels at 5 μg/dL or above.
- In 2008, Vermont became the first state to pass legislation that defined 5 μg/dL as an elevated blood lead level.
- In 2015, there were 2,489 emergency department visits with a primary diagnosis of asthma among Vermonter.
- One in seven Vermont homes has elevated levels of radon in their indoor air (2016).

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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