

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chair, Subcommittee on Transportation
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs Baldwin and Schatz and Ranking Members Capito and Hyde-Smith:

As your subcommittees begin the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations process, we urge you to include \$500 million for the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including \$155 million for the healthy homes program and at least level funding for the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grants, and \$100 million for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Nearly six million families in America live in housing that rivals developing countries, with problems such as broken heating, inoperable plumbing, holes in walls, and leaking roofs. Millions more live in housing with serious health and safety hazards from mold, exposed wiring, and toxic chemicals. Indeed, 40 percent of metropolitan homes have at least one health or safety hazard. Over the past two decades, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes has developed programs to treat units for lead hazards, improve lead safety through enforcement actions, and upgrade substandard housing units with healthy homes interventions. Providing the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes with \$500 million in FY 2025, including \$155 million within the total for the healthy homes program and continued funding for the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grants, is critical to continuing this progress.

Further, the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is instrumental to the success of the HUD remediation programs by supporting state and local health departments in the collection and dissemination of data on the prevalence of lead poisoning. This information helps HUD target resources for housing remediation. While we have made progress over the last couple of decades, our work is not done. There are more than 500,000 children in the U.S. under the age of five with elevated blood lead levels and more than 23 million homes in the U.S. with lead-based paint hazards. We must continue to move forward with federal initiatives to combat

lead poisoning across the country, and the CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program plays an essential role in identifying these lead hazards and the risk to children.

Lead poisoning is a preventable tragedy that dramatically impacts a child's health and ability to learn. Children under the age of six are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning, which can severely affect mental and physical development. Even low levels of lead can cause brain damage, which is why the CDC has determined that there is no "safe" level of lead for a child. Childhood exposure to lead has lifelong consequences, including decreased IQ and cognitive function, developmental delays, and behavior problems; very high levels can also cause seizures, coma, and even death. This is a smart investment in the health and development of our children since the cost of lead poisoning reaches beyond children's health. For example, educational system costs are estimated at \$38,000 over three years per child with special education needs due to lead poisoning. In fact, the societal costs of lead poisoning alone are estimated to be \$84 billion annually.

Thank you for your support of the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes and the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. We greatly appreciate your leadership and consideration of this request.

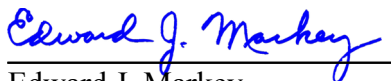
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



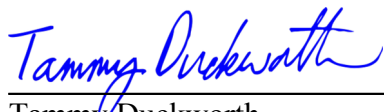
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



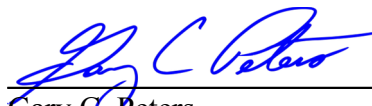
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator




Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



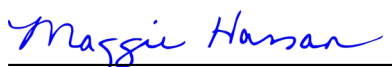
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



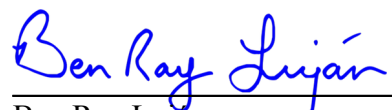
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator




Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



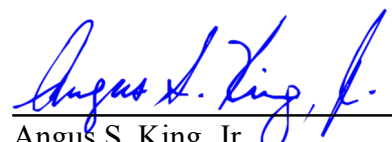
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



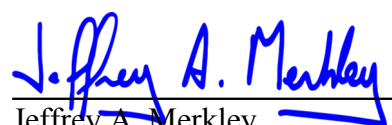
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



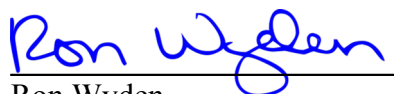
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United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator