

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack Chairman Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies House Appropriations Committee H-307 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley:

We write in strong support of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Healthy Homes Initiative. As you well know, in 1999 HUD launched its Healthy Homes Initiative to protect children and families from housing-related health and safety hazards. Since that time, HUD's Healthy Homes Initiative has been instrumental in helping improve the health and safety of low-income housing. This program supports initiatives throughout the country, including for hazard assessment and intervention, evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, building local capacity to educate residents and mitigate hazards, and developing and delivering public-education programs.

Our districts rely on this program to support housing repairs that help prevent asthma, cancer, and other serious health problems. To this end, we request at least \$500 million for lead hazard control and healthy homes program. Of the total, we request at least \$180 million for the Healthy Homes Initiative to address health and safety hazards in the home, such as carbon monoxide, fire safety, and mold. This program supports tens of thousands of low income families and decreases the number of children nationwide with elevated blood lead levels, asthma, and other illnesses and injuries. These programs yield high returns on investment. For example, reducing household allergens that contribute to asthma and allergies yield \$5.30 to \$16.50 per dollar invested. Installing battery-operated smoke alarms yields \$18 per dollar invested

Additionally, within the Public Housing Fund, we request at least \$100 million to help Public Housing Agencies identify and eliminate housing-related health and safety hazards, such as fire, mold, carbon monoxide, pest infestation, radon, and other housing hazards to ensure the health and safety of families living in public housing.

Thank you for your support for these important programs.

Sincerely,

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester Member of Congress

André Carson Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier Member of Congress

Robert Garcia Member of Congress Jahana Hayes Member of Congress

Val Hoyle Member of Congress Sheila Jackson Lee Member of Congress Ro Khanna Member of Congress

James P. McGovern Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell Member of Congress

Nikema Williams Member of Congress Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Ferrold Nadler Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

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Lori Trahan Member of Congress