

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Tom Latham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Latham and Rehberg, and Ranking Members Olver and DeLauro:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY 13) appropriations bills for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education, we respectfully request \$120 million for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, including \$30 million for the Healthy Homes Program, and \$29 million to restore the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program.

In 2009, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a call to action on healthy homes, stating that, "To improve the nation's overall health, we must improve the health of the nation's homes and ensure that safe, healthy, affordable, accessible, and environmentally friendly homes are available to everyone in the United States."

The number of children suffering from lead poisoning remains unacceptably high, with approximately 250,000 U.S. children aged 1-5 years of age having blood lead levels greater than 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood, the level at which CDC recommends public health actions be initiated. New findings suggest that adverse health effects, including disruptive cognitive function as well as cardiovascular, immunological, and endocrine problems, occur at much lower levels of lead exposure than previously thought.

According to the American Healthy Homes Survey (AHHS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, an estimated 37.1 million homes have lead-based paint somewhere in the building, of which 23.2 million have one or more lead-based paint hazard.

Poorer households have significantly higher rates of lead-based paint than more affluent households.

Over the past two decades, HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control program has developed programs to address lead hazards in the home, successfully creating 165,000 lead-free units, ensuring that over 185,000 units are lead-safe, and upgrading 20,000 substandard housing units. Providing the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control with \$120 million in FY 13 is critical to continuing this progress.

The CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program is instrumental to the success of the HUD remediation programs. The CDC's funding has helped state and local health departments maintain a system for the collection and dissemination of data on lead poisoning, which helps HUD target resources for housing remediation. Between 1997-2008, CDC's lead program served 850,000 children with dangerous blood lead levels, tested more than four million children for lead, and conducted case management for nearly 30,000 children. CDC grants have provided services to families with lead poisoned children, which have helped prevent costly emergency room and physician office visits for diseases and conditions like lead poisoning, asthma, and cancer. Despite the innovation of the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program, its funding was drastically cut over the past two years. Restoring funding for this critical program will ensure the goals of HUD programs are met, as well improve the health and cognitive potential of children.

A cost-benefit analysis report showed substantial returns on investment in lead hazard control, particularly targeted at early intervention in communities most likely at risk. In 2006, for each dollar invested in lead hazard control there was a return of \$17-\$221, and a net savings of \$181-269 billion. Maintaining funding for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control program and restoring the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program are both critically important, cost effective means of keeping Americans healthy, reducing unnecessary expense to the medical system, and strengthening our economy.

Thank you for your support of lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing. We greatly appreciate your leadership and consideration of these requests.

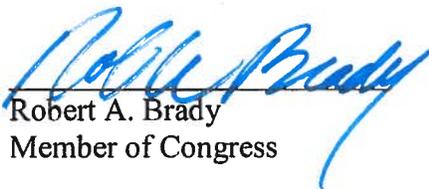
Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Leonard Boswell  
Member of Congress



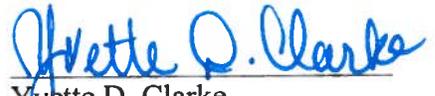
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



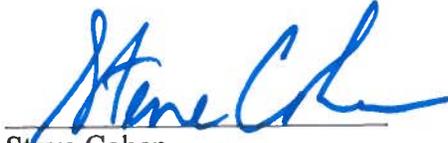
David Cicilline  
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Hansen Clarke  
Member of Congress



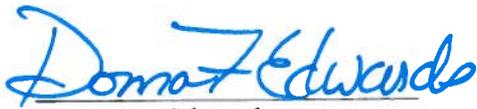
Yvette D. Clarke  
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Steve Cohen  
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Elijah E. Cummings  
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Donna F. Edwards  
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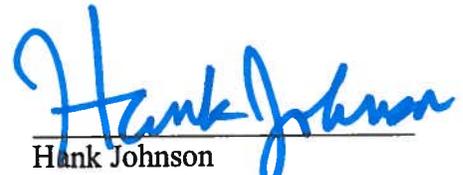
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Member of Congress



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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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Hank Johnson  
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Dennis J. Kucinich  
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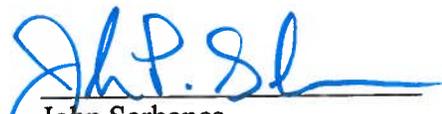
  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

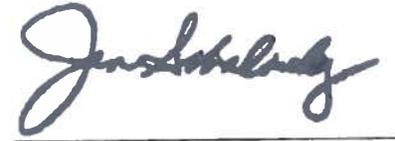
  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

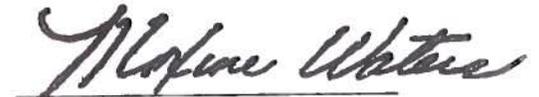
  
Mel Watt  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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