

Report of the Legislative Work Group/Natl. Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

Lars Peterson (Rebuilding Together), Chair

Group held conference call meeting on Monday, 9/14/09, chaired by Lars. Attending:

- Melanie Hudson/Children's Health Forum
- Patricia Adkins/Home Safety Council
- Randy Pence/American Society Home Inspectors
- Patrick MacRoy/Alliance for Healthy Housing
- Rebecca Morley/NCHH
- [Natl. Low Income Housing Coalition and ASTHO could not make meeting]

Lars reported that Sen. Jack Reed's bill to create a federal interagency council on HH was introduced last week on September 10 – it is S. 1658 – with Mike Johanns (R. Neb.) as the lead Repub. cosponsor and Dem's Boxer (Calif.), Franken (Minn.) and Merkley (Ore.) also cosponsoring.

Priorities and Game Plan for Next 6-12 Months: The Work Group laid out this plan:

1. Secure Republican Cosponsor of Reed Safe and Healthy Housing Bill (aka his "vision" bill) from among Bond, Snowe or Collins

All attending agreed we should support it and should take the following next steps:

- Lars will seek time with each office, ideally on same day (9/22, 23, 29 or 30) with the following three offices, then circulate dates to Leg. Work Group members and get as many as possible to attend each briefing;
 - **Bond:** Cheh Kim, Policy Advisor and former Approps/Banking Comm. staff (Melanie met with him, and he's running bill by other LA's since it addresses environment and health to see if Bond wants to cosponsor it)
 - **Snowe:** Henry Hanscomb, LC (per Grace in Reed's office)
 - **Collins:** Jen Capriola, LA

2. Circulate Sign-on Letter to Full Coalition

- John will draft 1-page DRAFT sign-on letter. Lars will circulate to steering committee to sign on by date certain (two weeks or so?)

3. Prepare Briefing Packet for Hill Visits/Outreach to Local Groups. Should include:

- Case Statement (2-pager in draft form already – RM to edit)
- Summary of 2 Reed Bills (NCHH has)
- Copy of final sign-on letter w/ multiple group signatures
- Exec. Summary of Surgeon General's Call to Action on HH (NCHH has copies)
- Coalition Membership List (once we formalize it?)

Lars will be listed as the contact on all legislative materials.

4. Reach Out to Local Groups In Maine/Missouri

- Assuming interest from 1 or more Senators above, reach out to local housing, health, environment, etc. groups who know Senators. Send briefing packet and seek their support in calling/meeting with/writing Senators to cosponsor Reed bill.

5. After Introduction, Support Cosponsorship Drive per Dear Colleague

- Once Reed drops bill, circulate sign-on letter (and possibly other items) to other Senate offices timed with Reed's Dear Colleague, w/ focus on Banking, HELP, EPW, and Housing/Health Approps. Subcommittee members.

6. Support Hearing on Bill

- If Reed needs help securing hearing from Banking Comm. Chairman Dodd, we may: a) reach out to CT groups; b) meet with majority full committee staff; c) meet with Sen. Menendez's staff re a subcommittee hearing; and/or d) talk to Reed and the Repub. cosponsor re a field hearing

7. Support Sen. Landrieu's Local Code Administration Incentive Grants Bill, S. 970

- Rebecca will circulate summary of this bill to educate Steering Comm. on it. Assuming support, Legis. Work Group will add to its agenda below the Reed Safe &HH bill

8. Support CDC Ctr. for Environmental Health/ASTDR HH Office Approps

- Rebecca will draft a sign-on letter for Steering Comm. that explains this office's mission/programs to begin educating group on value of supporting its budget. Assuming support, Legis. Work Group will add to its agenda below the Reed Safe &HH bill and circulate the sign-on letter for actual signing (after the Reed sign-on letter).
- Tracy/APHA will connect Rebecca to CDC Coalition. Patricia/Home Safety Council will introduce her to Public Health Campaign to coordinate.

9. HUD Office of HH & Lead Hazard Control fy 11 Budget/Approps

- Patrick's Reg./Admin. Work Group will work on meeting with HUD and OMB re supporting/increasing? the fy '11 budget (fy'10 penciled in at \$141 million). Presumably, Legis. Work Group will add to agenda next spring when President's budget goes to the Hill.