

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you consider the fiscal year 2016 funding bills for the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we urge your support for \$120 million for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, including \$25 million for the Healthy Homes Program.

Across the country, more than 6 million families are living in untenable housing conditions comparable to those of developing countries, including broken heating and plumbing systems and damaged and leaking walls and roofs, not to mention the millions living in housing with dire health and safety concerns from mold, exposed wiring, and toxic chemicals.

As you know, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes have directly addressed lead and other health hazards in 414,000 homes over the last two decades through programs that treat individual units for lead hazards, improve lead safety with enforcement action, and upgrade substandard housing with healthy homes interventions. By providing the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes with \$120 million in FY 2015, including \$25 million for healthy home interventions, we can ensure that this critical initiative will continue protecting families from these easily preventable health hazards.

Addressing housing-related health hazards also makes economic sense, as every \$1 spent to reduce home lead hazards provides a benefit of at least \$17. We greatly appreciate your leadership and consideration of these requests.


Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen



Robert Menendez



Ben Card



Debbie Stabenow

Whitmore

Elizabeth Ham

Charles Sch

August King -

Edward J. Markey

Patrick Leahy

Shirley Brown

Richard Blumenthal

Paul Sanders

Ron Wyden

Kirsten Gillibrand

Barbara Boxer