



November 21, 2019

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable TJ Cox
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter King
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Engel, Upton, Cox, and King:

On behalf of the Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition (CALC), a multi-sector coalition of asthma stakeholders dedicated to raising awareness and improving public policies to reduce the burden of childhood asthma, we are writing in strong support of your bipartisan bill, the Elijah E. Cummings Family Asthma Act. This important legislation builds upon the late Congressman Cummings' legacy as an unwavering champion for health care equity and justice, and a leader on policies that helped children and families impacted by asthma.

Before his passing, Congressman Cummings advocated for the Family Asthma Act, which would expand the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Asthma Control Program to serve all 50 states and direct the CDC to collaborate with state and local health departments to educate the public about asthma. Further, the bill would require the development of state plans to address asthma, particularly for disproportionately affected communities, and would require the collection and coordination of data on the impact of asthma. These provisions are important steps that will benefit communities disproportionately impacted by asthma helping millions of families.

We thank you for your leadership in introducing this legislation and your leadership of the Congressional Asthma and Allergy Caucus. As you know, asthma is the most common chronic condition among children in the United States, affecting over 6 million children across every Congressional district in the nation, with higher rates of prevalence in communities of color and low-income populations.¹ Decades of research show that evidence-based strategies are effective in reducing asthma symptoms and helping families of asthmatic children manage their disease. While there is no cure for asthma, much can be done to ensure that children with asthma remain healthy and active.

We urge your colleagues in Congress to support the Cummings Family Asthma Act. This bill will help children and adults with asthma lead full and healthy lives, carrying on the legacy of Congressman Cummings, who throughout his life positively impacted the lives of countless Marylanders and millions of people throughout the country. We also

encourage your colleagues to join you in your work with the Asthma and Allergy Caucus, raising awareness of the health and economic impacts of asthma and severe allergies and to advance research to improve the lives of adults and children living with these conditions.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Advocacy Council of American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
Allergy & Asthma Network
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Lung Association
Association of Asthma Educators
Asthma and Allergy Foundation for America
Children's National Hospital
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Schools Campaign
National Association of School Nurses
National Center for Healthy Housing
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
Trust for America's Health

ⁱ National Center for Health Statistics. National Health Interview Survey, 2017: Table C-1b. Frequencies (in thousands) of ever having asthma and still having asthma for children under age 18 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2017. Available at: https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/NHIS/SHS/2017_SHS_Table_C-1.pdf.