



Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition

March 24, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of organizations that comprise the Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition, a multi-sector coalition dedicated to raising awareness and improving public policy to reduce the burdens of childhood asthma, we are writing to ask for your support for the different departments and programs that matter most for children affected by asthma.

Our organizations have a long history of working on essential issues affecting children with asthma. In 2012 we formed the Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition with the goal of working collaboratively to accelerate prevention and early interventions to reduce asthma risks by improving symptom prevention, diagnosis, treatment, long-term case management, and improving home-, community-, and school-based interventions with federal policy change and targeted state efforts.

Childhood asthma is a pervasive and costly medical problem, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it affects 14 percent of all children in the U.S. Some groups face a higher burden of asthma than others. For example, African-American children are two times more likely to have asthma than white children, and asthma is more prevalent in low-income communities. It is one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood and a major cause of hospitalization in children under age 15. Childhood asthma is also a leading cause of missed school days, resulting in 10.5 million missed days every year.

Programs across federal agencies, such as the CDC's National Asthma Control Program; the National Institute of Health's National Lung, Heart, and Blood Institute; the Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Environments Division of the Office of Indoor Air and Radiation, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Healthy Homes program all offer critical resources and services to assist in the

management and symptom prevention for children with asthma. A complete list can be found as an attachment to this letter.

We understand that this is a challenging fiscal time for our nation, yet these programs have a proven impact in relieving the burden of asthma for millions of our nation's children, and in fact, these programs save health care costs. When it comes to childhood asthma, diagnosing, treating and managing kids with asthma adds almost 50 cents to every health care dollar spent on children compared to children without asthma.

We look forward to working with you to reduce the burden of asthma in the United States and improve the health and well-being of children with asthma. If you have any questions or would like to contact the Coalition, please call 202-657-0670.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association
Asthma Regional Council of New England and Health Resources in Action
First Focus Campaign for Children
Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
Healthy Schools Network
Merck Childhood Asthma Network
National Association of School Nurses
Regional Asthma Management & Prevention
Trust for America's Health

Federal Programs Affecting Children with Asthma

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
 - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
 - Environment and Health Outcome Tracking – Prevention and Public Health Fund
 - National Asthma Control Program
 - Prevention and Public Health Fund
 - Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Program
- *National Institutes of Health*
 - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
 - National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences
 - National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease
- *Agency for Healthcare Research Quality*

- *Health Resources and Services Administration*
 - Community Health Centers
 - School Based Health Centers

Environmental Protection Agency

- *Office of Children's Health Protection*
- *Environmental Programs and Management*
 - Clean Air and Climate
 - Federal Stationary Source Regulations
 - Federal Support for Air Quality Management
 - Federal Vehicle and Fuel Standards and Certification
 - Indoor Air and Radiation
- *Infrastructure, State and Tribal Assistance Grants*
 - Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program
 - Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management
- *Science and Technology*
 - Research: Air, Climate, and Energy

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- *Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Control*
 - Healthy Homes Program