

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

April 9, 2013

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 Ed Pastor  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Latham and Ranking Member Pastor,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 14) appropriations bill for the Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we respectfully request \$120 million for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, including \$30 million for the Healthy Homes 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." In February 2013, HUD, with the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality unveiled Advancing Healthy Housing – A Strategy for Action to reduce the number of American homes with residential health and safety hazards. The number of children suffering from lead poisoning remains unacceptably high, with approximately 250,000 U.S. children 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 disruptions to cognitive function as well as cardiovascular, immunological, and endocrine problems, occur at much lower levels of lead exposure.

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 14 is critical to continuing this progress.

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 is a critically important, cost-effective way to keep America healthy, reduce unnecessary medical costs, and strengthen our economy.

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

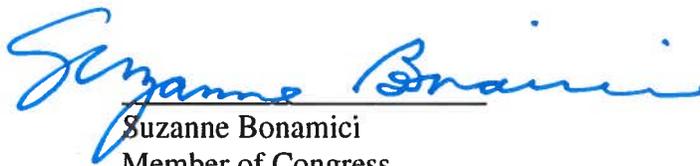
Sincerely,



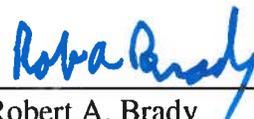
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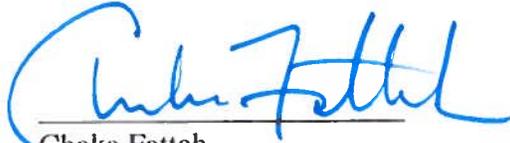
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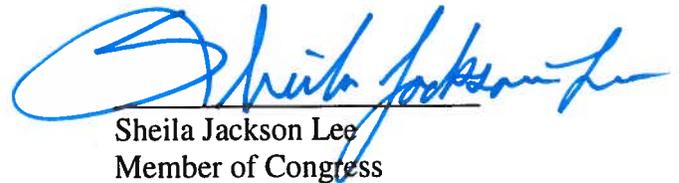
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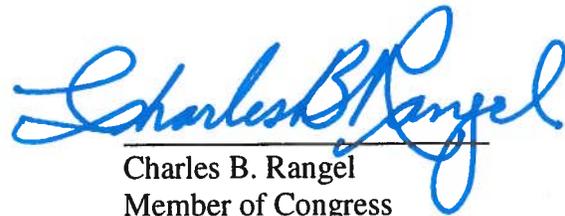
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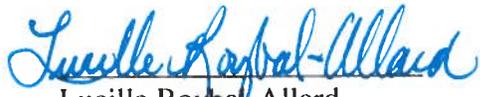
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Member of Congress



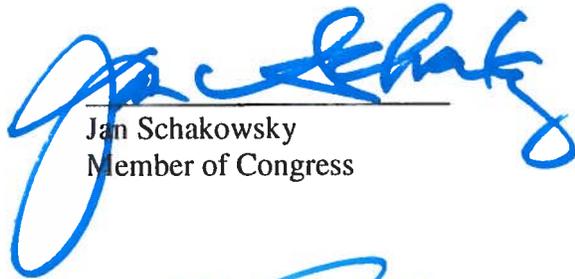
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