



Coalition *for* Healthier Schools

*...providing the national platform and
the forum for environmental health at school, since 2001...*

Coordinated by Healthy Schools Network

June 7, 2024- via email

Dear (US Senate signers) ...

Hope and Thanks for Supporting EPA FY 25 Healthier Schools for All

As major storms continue to batter states coast to coast, devastating communities and upending family life, we write with hope and with thanks for the unprecedented support for \$100M for US EPA in FY 25 for its well-established and successful healthy schools/indoor air programs that can:

- 1- generate improvements in children's health, learning, thinking, and behavior every day,**
- 2- help make our nation's school buildings more climate resilient and more resilient to infectious diseases, and thereby.**
- 3- able to stay open longer and or reopen safely and quickly post disasters.**

It is not simple. The nation's 98,000 public schools enrolling 50m children provide over 8bn ft² of learning space valued at over \$3T, yet they have ignored decades of polluted indoor air (US GAO) and are leaving federal funds on the table. And they still have legacy toxics inside such as pesticides, PCBs, asbestos, mercury and lead, clearly threats to children and others.

These are difficult issues; schools are reluctant to discuss them (even with CDC and ED). Congress can and must put EPA to work to lead a national campaign on effective solutions to school environments.

We thank the US Senators and the Coalition's members for their unprecedented support for EPA this spring:

- **Great thanks to *Healthy Schools Hero* Senator Gillibrand.** Due to her thoughtful leadership, **24 US Senators co-signed** her 2024 dear colleagues letter to the US Senate Appropriations Committee. **We extend our collective thanks to:**
 - **Baldwin, Tammy**
 - **Blumenthal, Richard**
 - **Booker, Cory**
 - **Brown, Sherrod**



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- **Butler, Laphonza R.**
- **Cardin, Ben**
- **Casey, Bob**
- **Duckworth, Tammy**
- **Durbin, Richard**
- **Gillibrand, Kirsten**
- **Hassan, Maggie**
- **Luján, Ben Ray**
- **Markey, Edward J.**
- **Ossoff, Jon**
- **Padilla, Alex**
- **Reed, Jack**
- **Sanders, Bernard**
- **Smith, Tina**
- **Stabenow, Debbie**
- **Van Hollen, Chris**
- **Warren, Elizabeth**
- **Welch, Peter**
- **Whitehouse, Sheldon**
- **Wyden, Ron**

- **Great thanks to the Coalition's 48 state and national partners supporting EPA's voluntary programs to advance healthier school facilities for all children by signing the Coalition's May 15th letter to Senate**

Appropriators:

- AFT Connecticut
- Airthings, GA
- Alaska Community Action on Toxics
- American Lung Association
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- BrainWorks, GA
- Cedar Creek Elementary School, TX
- Children's Environmental Health Network
- Citizens' Committee for Children of New York



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- Climate Families NYC
- Coalition for Healthier Schools
- Comunidades Sin Fronteras CSF-CT INC, CT
- Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
- Cool Green Schools, MD
- Environmental Working Group
- First Focus on Children
- Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition, NY
- Healthy Schools Network
- Healthy Schools Now, WEC, NJ
- Informed Green Solutions, VT
- International WELL Building Institute
- Learning Disabilities Association of America
- MADE SAFE, NY
- MD Children's Environmental Health Coalition (MD CEHC)
- Mothers Out Front, MA
- National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Center for Healthy Housing
- New Jersey Association of Designated Persons
- NYS Parent Teacher Association
- Protect Education, OH
- Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK), VA
- Pure Air Solutions of PA
- Responsible Purchasing Network
- Society for Public Health Education
- Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
- Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
- The Autistic People of Color Fund, NE
- Vermont Public Interest Research Group
- WellAir, CT
- Wing's Testing & Balancing Co., Inc., CT
- Women for a Healthy Environment, PA
- Women's Voices for the Earth, MT



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Updated national NGO sign-ons received post May 15)

- 21st Century Schools Fund
- American Federation of Federal, State, and Municipal Employees
- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
- Center for Cities and Schools/UC Berkeley
- West Harlem Environmental Action
- Healthy Schools Caucus

We thank the Senators for their support and urge them again to tell Appropriators to include \$100M for EPA's proven, voluntary programs that have helped hundreds of thousands understand how to effectively identify and address environmental health and learning threats in schools.

Sincerely,

Claire L. Barnett. MBA, Coordinator, Coalition for Healthier Schools

CC: Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer



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