



February 25, 2025

Chairman Wayne DeAngelo
House Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee
Statehouse Annex
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Letter of Support for A 4844

Dear Chairman DeAngelo,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), I am writing in support of A 4844 that would promote electrification in New Jersey. AAFA is the leading patient organization for nearly 100 million Americans with asthma and allergies. AAFA is also the oldest asthma and allergy patient organization in the world, committed to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for people with asthma and allergies through support, advocacy, education and research.

Approximately 650,000 adults and more than 100,000 children suffer from asthma in New Jersey, resulting in a prevalence that is higher than the national average.¹ In 2021 alone, New Jersey suffered 119 asthma-related deaths. Because there is no cure for asthma, effective prevention and long-term maintenance is key. Primary among these prevention measures is managing indoor air quality and reducing exposure to harmful pollutants in outdoor environments.

Fossil fuel-based heating systems release pollutants, including benzene and nitrogen oxides, that degrade air quality and pose serious health risks indoors.² Exposure to emissions from gas appliances has been linked to significant increases in asthma among children; children who grow up in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop asthma symptoms and nearly 13% of all childhood asthma cases have been attributed to gas stoves.³ By transitioning to

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. (2021). *National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) data and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)* Division of Vital Statistics, CDC WONDER.

² Li, T., Shapiro, M. A., Heidarinejad, M., & Stephens, B. (2024). Ten questions concerning building electrification. *Building and Environment*, 261, 111653. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2024.111653>

³ Gruenwald, T., Seals, B. A., Knibbs, L. D., & Hosgood, R. D. (2022). Population attributable fraction of gas stoves and childhood asthma in the United States. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(1), 75. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20010075>



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America

electric alternatives, A 4844 plays a vital role in protecting public health, particularly for children in New Jersey.

AAFA strongly urges the New Jersey Assembly to pass this piece of legislation that will dramatically improve the lives of children and adults with asthma.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Mendez

President and Chief Executive Officer

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America