



February 27, 2026

Chair Gordon M. Johnson  
Senate Labor Committee  
P.O. Box 099  
LA-33  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0099

**RE: Letter of Support for S 1206**

Dear Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Zwicker, and members of the Senate Labor Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) in support of S 1206, the New Jersey Small Business Indoor Air Quality Management Support Program. AAFA is the leading patient organization advocating for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient group in the world. AAFA is dedicated to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for the 100 million people in the United States with these chronic conditions.

At AAFA, we believe that New Jerseyans should be focused on their work, not struggling to breathe. **For the one in twelve adults in New Jersey living with asthma**, that struggle can feel like trying to breathe through a narrow straw. Poor indoor air quality in the workplace affects more than just our lungs. When indoor air quality is poor, common asthma triggers like dust, mold, and poor ventilation can worsen symptoms, impact mental function, ability to focus, and work productivity.<sup>1</sup>

Indoor air quality in homes, schools and workplaces is a significant factor in the overall health and wellbeing of the population. The lack of funding mechanisms to pay for radon and indoor air mitigations is an ongoing problem. S 1206 begins to address these funding issues in New Jersey, by creating a program that aids and encourages small businesses to improve indoor air quality.

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- <sup>1</sup> Cedeño Laurent, J. G., MacNaughton, P., Jones, E., Young, A. S., Bliss, M., Flanigan, S., Vallarino, J., Chen, L. J., Cao, X., & Allen, J. G. (2021). Associations between acute exposures to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and carbon dioxide indoors and cognitive function in office workers: a multicountry longitudinal prospective observational study. *Environmental Research Letters*, 16(9), 094047. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac1bd8>



The New Jersey Health Department estimates that 8.4% of New Jersey adults have asthma. **Salem and Sussex counties have rates almost double the state average.**<sup>2</sup> Nationwide, 9 people lose their lives to asthma every day. Taking action to minimize the risk factors that exacerbate this chronic condition can help prevent severe outcomes for New Jerseyans.

Improving indoor air quality in our workplaces is an accessible step that can prevent severe outcomes for employees suffering with asthma, decrease missed work days, and boost team productivity. When we spend nearly 90% of our time indoors, good air quality is a necessity for health. Indoor air can be up to 5 times more polluted than outdoor air. Buildings can trap harmful air pollution and other asthma triggers inside.

When indoor air quality is improved, employee productivity improves. We respectfully encourage the committee to vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kenneth Mendez'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Kenneth Mendez  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

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<sup>2</sup> [NJSHAD - Summary Health Indicator Report - Prevalence of Asthma among Adults](#)