



September 14, 2026

Chair Anthony S. Verrelli  
Assembly Labor Committee  
125 W. State St  
P.O. Box 098  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0098

**RE: Letter of Support for A.5113**

Dear Chair Verrelli, and members of the Assembly Labor Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) in support of A.5113, to establish the New Jersey Small Business Indoor Air Quality Management Support Program. AAFA is the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient organization in the world. AAFA is dedicated to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for people with asthma and allergies through support, advocacy, education, and research.

At AAFA, we believe that New Jerseyans should be able to work without struggling to breathe. **For nearly one in ten adults in New Jersey living with asthma**, that struggle can feel like trying to breathe through a narrow straw.<sup>1</sup> 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>2</sup>

Indoor air quality in homes, schools and workplaces is a significant factor in the overall health and wellbeing of the state population. The lack of funding mechanisms to pay for radon and indoor air mitigations is an ongoing problem. A.5113 begins to address these

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<sup>1</sup> New Jersey Department of Health. (n.d.). *Asthma prevalence*. New Jersey State Health Assessment Data (NJ SHAD). <https://www-doh.nj.gov/doh-shad/indicator/summary/AsthmaPrevalence.html>

<sup>2</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>



funding issues in New Jersey, by creating a program that aids and encourages small businesses to improve indoor air quality.

The New Jersey Health Department estimates that in 2024, 9.9% of New Jersey adults had asthma. Black New Jerseyans have a higher prevalence of asthma compared to other racial groups, at 15.4%, and across all age categories, adult asthma prevalence is higher for women than men.<sup>3</sup> Nationwide, 9-11 people lose their lives to asthma every day.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

When indoor air quality is improved, employee productivity improves. We respectfully encourage the committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

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

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<sup>3</sup> New Jersey Department of Health. (n.d.). *Asthma prevalence*. New Jersey State Health Assessment Data (NJ SHAD). <https://www-doh.nj.gov/doh-shad/indicator/summary/AsthmaPrevalence.html>

<sup>4</sup> AAFA, Asthma Facts, Figures, and Stats. Available at <https://aafa.org/asthma/asthma-facts/>

<sup>5</sup> AAFA, Indoor Air Quality. Available at <https://aafa.org/asthma/asthma-triggers-causes/air-pollution-smog-asthma/indoor-air-quality/>