



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

March 3, 2023

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
(WA-5)
Chair
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives

Representative Frank Pallone (NJ-6)
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives

AIHA Support for H.R.1104, the Fix Moldy Housing Act

Dear Chairwoman McMorris Rogers and Ranking Member Pallone:

AIHA, the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS), **strongly encourages you to swiftly support H.R.1104, the Fix Moldy Housing Act.**

Each year, millions of Americans are negatively impacted by mold at home and work. As stated in our [“Facts About Mold: A Consumer Focus”](#) Fact Sheet, “The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, Health Canada, and the World Health Organization all agree that living or working in a building with mold-damaged building materials results in an increased risk of respiratory diseases such as asthma.”

In addition to the discomfort that can accompany an asthma attack, asthma related to dampness and mold has a significant economic impact: approximately \$3.5 billion each year, according to the [U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Scientific and Technical Information](#).

The Fix Moldy Housing Act would help by creating a \$50 million-per-year grant program to help low-income communities, low-income households, Tribal governments, and States cover the costs associated with remediating mold in public-owned or leased buildings, including schools.

The Fix Moldy Housing Act would follow the science, requiring the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to complete a study on safe mold remediation and the

conditions in which it is necessary. AIHA is in full support of the research proposed in this bill, including research into the effects associated with exposure to mold. Expanding on the results of this study, including reviewing international standards activities, voluntary national standards could be considered for identifying and safely remediating mold in buildings.

Recommendations and Next Steps

AIHA supports the Fix Moldy Housing Act and provides the following observations and recommendations.

Written mold remediation plans should be developed and implemented by occupational and environmental health and safety professionals who are experienced and educated in the different types of mold and their adverse health effects, standard methods for biological air sampling, and methods for safely remediating mold in buildings.

We note that specific limits for different types of mold and interpreting data related to mold concentrations of both viable and nonviable products of mold is challenging because of the many different types of mold which may be present in indoor air and the presence of vulnerable populations in indoor environments. As a result, establishing exposure limits for children, older persons, and vulnerable or other susceptible persons such as immunocompromised populations may prove particularly challenging at this stage of our scientific knowledge. It is clear that more research is needed to advance our understanding of mold and how to safely remediate it, followed by expanded outreach to the businesses, workers, and the public.

The Fix Moldy Housing Act represents an important step toward protecting more workers and their communities. AIHA encourages you to help improve the health of millions of Americans by supporting this bill. If you have any questions about AIHA's support for this bill or other matters, please contact me at mames@aiha.org or (703) 846-0730.

Sincerely,



Mark Ames
Director, Government Relations
AIHA

About AIHA

AIHA is the association for scientists and professionals committed to preserving and ensuring occupational and environmental health and safety in the workplace and community. Founded in 1939, we support our members with our expertise, networks,

comprehensive education programs, and other products and services that help them maintain the highest professional and competency standards. More than half of AIHA's nearly 8,500 members are Certified Industrial Hygienists, and many hold other professional designations. AIHA serves as a resource for those employed across the public and private sectors as well as to the communities in which they work. For more information, please visit www.aiha.org.

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