

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 21, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski and Ranking Member Merkley,

As you prepare the Committee's Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill, we are writing to respectfully request that you include \$100 million for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indoor Environments Division (IED) of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) to protect school children and personnel from unhealthy environments in schools and childcare facilities.

As you know, school environmental health is an urgent need that demands a broad sustained response. Over twenty years of published research has shown that indoor environmental exposure to pollutants can be more intense than outdoor exposures and that school facilities have been neglected for decades. These are problems affecting children and their families/caretakers, particularly in communities most in need, and affecting personnel, the health care system, and schools themselves. Poor indoor environments in schools decrease seat time, attendance and test scores, and increase asthma and other health events, and thus increase health costs. It is clear that there is a significant need to educate, train, and encourage schools and childcare facilities on child-safe and effective preventive management of facilities. Many educators lack sufficient knowledge about facilities and about these opportunities to take advantage of them, and the most rural and low-income schools cannot afford or even identify top facilities personnel or consultants to assess needs and devise plans for funding.

EPA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools program is well-positioned to address these problems by providing the outreach, guidance, and tools that schools need to effectively address the multiple factors that impact indoor air quality. Thus, we request the inclusion of the following report language in support of EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools program:

Indoor Air Quality in Schools – The Committee recognizes the importance of safe and healthy learning environments, which includes access to clean indoor air. Poor indoor air

quality can impede a child's learning ability and expose students and school personnel to serious health risks. The Committee supports the Agency's comprehensive Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools program and the ongoing grant programs to improve indoor environmental quality in schools. The Committee provides \$100 million for technical assistance and science-based resources on implementing source reduction strategies, sustainable ventilation, filtration and other indoor air quality improvements for healthy school environments.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing you and we hope that you will support these small programs proven to support healthier children and better educational outcomes.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



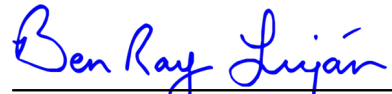
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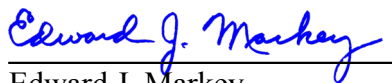
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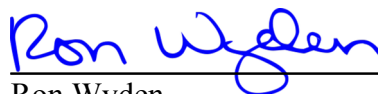
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