



February 10, 2026

Re: Legislative Budget Hearing

Dear Joint Health and Medicaid Committee:

We are environmental pediatricians from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai writing to urge continued funding for the NYS Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP). HNP, based in 17 NYS county health departments and NYC, provides the solutions families need for common problems in the home like fire safety, pests, mold and more. Each in-home visit costs \$300 and yields a \$1,083 savings to Medicaid Managed Care due to fewer doctor, emergency room and hospital visits, and less need for quick response medications. Children with asthma who receive in-home visits have fewer missed school days.

As environmental pediatricians, we are working to prescribe healthy homes for children across New York State, where every child will have access to a healthy environment and we depend on programs like HNP. It is a critical resource to which doctors and nurses can refer families to get the support they need to address environmental problems in their homes. Clinical, public health and community programs all rely on HNP services. Further evidence of HNP's impact and return on investment can be found in these documents linked below:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/healthy_neighborhoods/docs/difference.pdf

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/healthy_neighborhoods/docs/savings.pdf

Together with the NY State American Academy of Pediatrics, we support maintaining this program at current funding levels. In fact, HNP is a program that ideally should be expanded to better serve urban, suburban and rural families across the state. All children should have a healthy home where they can live, learn, eat, sleep, play and pray. NYS Healthy Neighborhoods Program is critical to helping make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Perry Elizabeth Sheffield in black ink.

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