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January 15, 2026

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
513 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
524 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the *Public Health Air Quality Act* (H.R.6782/S.3529)

Dear Senators Rochester and Duckworth:

On behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), I write to thank you for reintroducing the ***Public Health Air Quality Act* (H.R.6782/S.3529)**. The AAAAI supports this legislation which would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deploy fenceline air quality monitoring for pollutants contributing to poor health outcomes—including asthma—across vulnerable populations.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 7,000 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

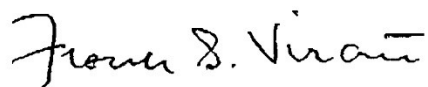
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Allergist/immunologist professionals sit at the front line of environmental health and must consider the larger implications of changing environmental conditions, including climate change, while adopting the best practices and newest research methods to anticipate the needs of patients. The AAAAI has long recognized how the impacts of climate change are relevant to direct patient care¹. These impacts, including higher ambient carbon dioxide concentrations and warmer temperatures, increase the severity of chronic diseases, such as aspects of allergen exposure as well communicable diseases related to allergies and asthma. The AAAAI also recognizes that certain groups – including those with chronic diseases, children, older adults, minority, and poor populations – have relatively increased vulnerability to the health impacts of climate change. Further, the exposure to air pollution – which contains harmful, oftentimes toxic, substances to the respiratory track—including PM 2.5 (particulate matter or small droplets, less than or equal to 2.5 µm in diameter), NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide), and SO₂ (sulfur dioxide)—have been linked to the risk of developing asthma and exacerbating asthma symptoms². Of note, when ozone levels reach an Air Quality Index of 51-100, asthma symptoms may worsen, and levels above 101 are considered dangerous.

The AAAAI supports the **Public Health Air Quality Act (H.R.6782/S.3529)**, which would direct the EPA to deploy air quality sensors across the nation's frontline communities and ensure adequate data collection on pollutants to inform decision making. Efforts made to monitor air quality and gather data across frontline communities will further advance health equity. With respect to supporting those living with asthma, the AAAAI is pleased that through the legislation, air quality sensors would monitor and measure pollutants that have been proven to have an impact the development of asthma and asthma symptoms (including, ozone, PM2.5, oxides of nitrogen, and sulfur dioxide). The AAAAI also appreciates the provisions that will expand the National Ambient Air Monitoring Networks by making investments in the deployment of additional National Core Network (NCore) multipollutant monitoring stations across vulnerable populations, including in areas where the rates of childhood and adult asthma are at least five percent higher than the national average.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation. As issues related to allergies, asthma, and immunological disorders arise, I encourage you to contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or sheitzig@aaaai.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Frank S. Virant, MD, FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

¹ Barnes, C. et al. (2013, March). Climate Change and Our Environment: The Effect on Allergic and Respiratory Disease. *JACI: In Practice*. Retrieved from [https://www.jaci-inpractice.org/article/S2213-2198\(12\)00005-0/fulltext](https://www.jaci-inpractice.org/article/S2213-2198(12)00005-0/fulltext).

² Anderson HR, Favarato G, Atkinson RW. Long-term exposure to air pollution and the incidence of asthma: meta-analysis of cohort studies. *Air Qual Atmos Health*. 2013; 6: 47-56. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11869-011-0144-5>