

American Academy of Pediatrics ▪ American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine ▪ American College of Preventive Medicine ▪ American Lung Association ▪ American Medical Association ▪ American Nurses Association ▪ American Public Health Association ▪ American Thoracic Society ▪ Association of State and Territorial Health Officials ▪ Children’s Environmental Health Network ▪ Health Care without Harm ▪ Hepatitis Foundation International ▪ National Association of County and City Health Officials ▪ National Association of Local Boards of Health ▪ National Environmental Health Association ▪ [Partnership for Prevention](#) ▪ Physicians for Social Responsibility ▪ Trust for America’s Health

September 28, 2010

The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

To President Obama, Members of the United States Senate and Members of the United States House of Representatives,

Climate change is a serious public health issue. As temperatures rise, more Americans will be exposed to conditions that can result in illness and death due to respiratory illness, heat- and weather-related stress and disease carried by insects. These health issues are likely to have the greatest impact on our most vulnerable communities, including children, older adults, those with serious health conditions and the most economically disadvantaged.

The latest assessment from the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), the [Global Climate Change Impacts in the U.S.](#), states that “Climate change poses unique challenges to human health.... There are direct health impacts from heat waves and severe storms, ailments caused or exacerbated by air pollution and airborne allergens, and many climate-sensitive infectious diseases.”

As public health professionals, we are writing to urge you to recognize the threat to public health posed by climate change and to support measures that will reduce these risks and strengthen the ability of our local, state and federal public health agencies to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

In order to prepare for changes already under way, it is essential to strengthen our public health system so it is able to protect our communities from the health effects of heat waves, wildfires, floods, droughts, infectious diseases, and other events. But we must also address the root of the problem, which means reducing the emissions that contribute to climate change. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting the public’s health from climate change, and we urge you to fully support the EPA in fulfilling its responsibilities. **We also urge opposition to any efforts to weaken, delay or block the EPA from protecting the public’s health from these risks.**

To provide the most complete protection for Americans, Congress should resume efforts to pass clean energy and climate legislation that includes strong provisions to protect public health adequately and appropriately. If our organizations may be of further assistance, please contact Don Hoppert with the American Public Health Association at 202-777-2514.

Sincerely,

National organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Occupational and
Environmental Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of State and Territorial Health
Officials

Children's Environmental Health Network
Health Care without Harm
Hepatitis Foundation International
National Association of County and City
Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of
Health
National Environmental Health Association
Partnership for Prevention
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Trust for America's Health

State and local organizations and health professionals

Alaska

Alaska Public Health Association

Arizona

Arizona Physicians for Social Responsibility

California

California Public Health Association
North Sacramento Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Los Angeles Physicians for Social
Responsibility
San Francisco Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Southern California Public Health
Association

Colorado

Colorado Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Connecticut

Association of School Nurses of
Connecticut
Connecticut Public Health Association
Farmington Valley health district
Glastonbury Health Department

Delaware

American Lung Association of Delaware

Florida

Tampa Physicians for Social Responsibility
Florida Physicians for Social Responsibility

Georgia

Georgia Public Health Association

Hawaii

Hawaii Public Health Association

Iowa

Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility
Iowa Public Health Association

Idaho

Idaho Public Health Association

Illinois

Autism Society of Illinois
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Illinois Nurses Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois

Respiratory Health Association of
Metropolitan Chicago
Brynn Weimer, Physical Therapist

Indiana

Indiana Public Health Association

Kansas

Kansas Public Health Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility -
Kansas City
Ann Suellentrop, MSRN

Massachusetts

Central Massachusetts Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Pioneer Valley Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Greater Boston Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Paul R. Epstein, MD, MPH

Maryland

Maryland Public Health Association
Baltimore Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Maine

Maine Physicians for Social Responsibility
Maine Public Health Association

Michigan

Ingham County Health Department
Michigan Public Health Association
Hal Morgenstern, Professor, Environmental
Health Sciences, University of Michigan
School of Public Health

Missouri

City of Kansas City, MO Health Department
Missouri Public Health Association
Leesa Hemkens, RN
Lorraine Kerksiek, Administrator
Melissa Sutton, Patient Technician, Boone
Hospital Center
Rory Abberton, EMT-P
Sarah Hempkens, LPN

Montana

Andy Puckett, MD
Benjamin Schmidt, Air Quality Specialist
Beth Schenk, RN
Carolyn Goren, Physician (retired)
Georgia Milan, MD
Dr. Greg Lind, Physician
Dr. James Wiggins, Physician
John Beighle, MD
Marcia Hanks, APRN, CNM
Mary Huddle, APRN, CNM
Nancy Wiggins, Nurse Practitioner
Paul Gazzo, RN
Paul Loehnen, Physician (retired)
Sara Lahey, RN

North Carolina

Asthma Alliance of North Carolina
North Carolina Public Health Association
Western North Carolina Physicians for
Social Responsibility

North Dakota

Barry Milavetz, PhD
Christie Iverson, MD
Herbert J. Wilson, MD
James B. Buhr, MD
Sharon E. Buhr, MPH.
Wanda Agnew, PhD, LRD - Public Health
Dietitian

Nebraska

Omaha Greater Area Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Public Health Association of Nebraska

New Mexico

New Mexico Physicians for Social
Responsibility
New Mexico Public Health Association
Bernalillo Community Health Council
Bill Monroe, RN
Phil Marcus, President New Mexico Nurse
Practitioner Council
Robert Bernstein, Board Member Physicians
for Social Responsibility

Nevada

Nevada Public Health Association
American Lung Association in Nevada

New York

New York State Public Health Association
Patrick L. Kinney, ScD, Mailman School of
Public Health, Columbia University

Ohio

Northeast Ohio Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Ohio Public Health Association
Anna M. Winfield, MD, MPH, FAAP
Antonnette Graham, PhD, University
Educator and Researcher
David G. Litaker, MD, PhD, Associate
Program Director, University Hospitals
Case Medical Center Preventive
Medicine and Public Health Residency
J. Mac Crawford, RN, MS, PhD, Assistant
Professor of Clinical Public Health, OSU
College of Public Health
Jason Chao, MD
Kathleen Morris, MSA, RN
Mary Lynne Zahler, MA, CHES, CWP,
LSW, CFLE, CCLS

Oregon

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Pennsylvania

American Academy of Pediatrics,
Pennsylvania Chapter
American Lung Association of Pennsylvania
Erie County Board of Health
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Philadelphia Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Womens Health & Environmental Network
Duanping Liao, MD, PhD
Esther Chung, Associate Professor of
Pediatrics, Jefferson Pediatrics/duPont
Children's Health Program
James Plumb, Director, Center for Urban
Health, Thomas Jefferson University and
Hospital
Jeff Yanosky, Sc. D, Assistant Professor,
Epidemiology, Public Health Sciences

Stephen Krebs, MD

Thomas J. Maroon, MD

Trina Peduzzi, MD

Tyra Bryant-Stephens, Director, Community
Asthma Prevention Program, Children's
Hospital on Philadelphia

Walter Tsou, MD, MPH

Rhode Island

Rhode Island State Nurses Association

South Dakota

South Dakota Public Health Association

Texas

Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility

Utah

Utah Public Health Association

Virginia

Carol A Maxwell, RN

Marilyn S. LeGrow, RN

Wynne V. LeGrow, MD

Vermont

Vermont Public Health Association

Washington

Washington Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Washington State Public Health Association

Patricia Butterfield, RN, PhD, Professor
WSU College of Nursing

Phyllis Eide, RN, PhD, Professor WSU
College of Nursing

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Wisconsin Public Health Association