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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

14 Wall St.
Suite 8C
New York, NY 10005-2113
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 608-3219

www.Lung.org

January 14, 2013

The Honorable Bruce Braley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Braley:

I write today to express the American Lung Association's support for the End Radon in Schools Act. This Act is an important step in protecting the health of our children. As the nation's oldest voluntary health organization dedicated to saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, we thank you for introducing this measure.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, responsible for 21,000 deaths annually. Exposure to radon causes no immediate symptoms, but the long-term threat of lung cancer is significant to everyone. We must protect children and school staff from exposure to radon.

Radon is emitted from the ground and enters a building through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and other openings. Because radon comes from rock and soil, it can be found anywhere. However, when radon gets trapped indoors, such as in school buildings, it can reach dangerous concentrations.

The End Radon in Schools Act will protect our nation's children, their teachers and other school staff from exposure to radon while at school. It will ensure schools are tested for radon and, if tests show dangerous levels of radon are present, successful mitigation steps will be applied in a timely manner.

As you know, this is particularly critical for Iowa, which is classified as a "Zone 1" state with many buildings having potentially dangerous indoor radon levels.

We look forward to working with you as the legislative process moves forward to ensure that this important piece of legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Billings
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Education