



February 16, 2023

Chair Leftwich, Vice Chair Wright and distinguished members of the Virginia House General Laws Committee,

Change the Air Foundation is writing in support of SB 786, to include mold in the Virginia Board of Asbestos, Lead, and Home Inspectors.

This simple change will do so much to impact the health and well-being of so many Virginians and their families.

Poor indoor air quality and water-damaged indoor environments not only impacts our health, but also causes significant physical, emotional, and financial hardship. What's worse, water damage is not always a visible problem and can be hidden behind walls and in places not often frequented, such as attics and crawl spaces. Many individuals may be suffering from chronic health symptoms and have no idea that the culprit behind their degrading health rests within these hazardous indoor spaces.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC NIOSH) estimates that the average American spends over 90% of their time indoors. The American Lung Association states that the average adult takes 20,000 breaths a day. The U.S. EPA's research indicates air pollutants can be 2 - 5 times - even up to 100 times - higher indoors than outdoor levels

These statistics paint an important picture: *We spend more time indoors than ever breathing in air that is potentially bad for our health.*

Indoor air quality and the state of our indoor environments has an immense impact on our health and well-being.

Change the Air Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization aiming to empower the world to achieve better health by meaningfully addressing the impact water damage, mold and other pollutants have on indoor air quality. We aim to connect people's health with their homes and buildings.

The Foundation believes that every person has a right to know that their indoor environments may be affected by mold, bacteria, and other potentially harmful indoor pollutants.

Put simply, we believe that healthy and safe indoor air is a *basic right*. We believe SB 786 is consistent with the science, is practical and will protect thousands of Virginia residents in the years to come.

Mold-related illnesses can be prevented if residents and owners are properly informed and take the necessary steps to identify and prevent mold and water damage in their housing environments.

Change the Air believes that SB 786, if passed, will be viewed as a flagship for other states across this country by leading the way towards safer indoor air quality standards for all.

We urge you to pass this bill and stand ready to provide further information.

In health and change,



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