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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

To authorize a national program to reduce the threat to human health posed by exposure to indoor air contaminants, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TONKO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To authorize a national program to reduce the threat to human health posed by exposure to indoor air contaminants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Indoor Air Quality and  
5 Healthy Schools Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
2           trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-  
3           mental Protection Agency.

4           (2) COVERED CHILDCARE FACILITY.—The term  
5           “covered childcare facility” means a facility used by  
6           an early childhood education program.

7           (3) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRO-  
8           GRAM.—The term “early childhood education pro-  
9           gram” has the meaning given to that term in section  
10          103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
11          U.S.C. 1003).

12          (4) INDOOR.—The term “indoor” means the  
13          enclosed portions of buildings, including nonindus-  
14          trial workplaces, public buildings, Federal buildings,  
15          schools, childcare facilities, commercial buildings,  
16          and residences.

17          (5) INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANT.—The term “in-  
18          door air contaminant” means any solid, liquid, semi-  
19          solid, dissolved solid, biogenic agent, aerosol, or gas-  
20          eous material, including combinations or mixtures of  
21          substances, in indoor air which may reasonably be  
22          anticipated to have an adverse effect on human  
23          health.

1 (6) INDOOR CONTAMINANT OF CONCERN.—The  
2 term “indoor contaminant of concern” means an in-  
3 door air contaminant that—

4 (A) is among the most commonly occurring  
5 and poses a risk to human health; or

6 (B) is less commonly occurring and poses  
7 a significant risk to human health.

8 (7) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
9 “local educational agency” means—

10 (A) a local educational agency (as defined  
11 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
12 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
13 7801)); or

14 (B) a Tribal education agency (as the term  
15 “tribal education agency” is defined in section  
16 3 of the National Environmental Education Act  
17 (20 U.S.C. 5502)).

18 (8) STATE.—The term “State” includes each of  
19 the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto  
20 Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa,  
21 and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-  
22 lands.

23 **SEC. 3. INDOOR AIR QUALITY PROGRAM.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall carry out  
25 a program to support the assessment, reduction, and

1 avoidance of exposure to indoor air contaminants to re-  
2 duce risks to human health.

3 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out the program  
4 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall support the  
5 assessment, reduction, and avoidance of exposure to in-  
6 door air contaminants to reduce risks to human health,  
7 including by—

8 (1) carrying out research, development, and  
9 demonstration activities pursuant to the Radon Gas  
10 and Indoor Air Quality Research Act of 1986 (42  
11 U.S.C. 7401 note);

12 (2) listing indoor contaminants of concern, and  
13 developing guidelines for such indoor contaminants  
14 of concern, under section 4;

15 (3) providing training, education, outreach, and  
16 technical assistance to eliminate or reduce indoor air  
17 contaminants, including by effective source control,  
18 ventilation, and filtration practices;

19 (4) carrying out or recognizing voluntary cer-  
20 tifications to identify and promote buildings that are  
21 most effective at improving indoor air quality under  
22 section 7;

23 (5) supporting efforts to improve indoor air  
24 quality in buildings used by local educational agen-  
25 cies and covered childcare facilities under section 8;

1           (6) ensuring effective consultation and coordi-  
2           nation among Federal agencies in carrying out pro-  
3           grams related to indoor air quality, including the  
4           Department of Labor, the Department of Energy,  
5           the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the  
6           Department of Housing and Urban Development,  
7           the Department of Health and Human Services, the  
8           Department of Education, the Department of De-  
9           fense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
10          the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and  
11          other appropriate agencies carrying out programs re-  
12          lated to indoor air quality;

13          (7) supporting State, local, and Tribal govern-  
14          ments, local educational agencies, housing authori-  
15          ties, and other entities to develop and implement in-  
16          door air quality management strategies, educational  
17          campaigns, assessments, guidelines, standards, and  
18          response programs;

19          (8) providing information, guidance, and assist-  
20          ance to the public, including building owners and oc-  
21          cupants, on—

22                  (A) health-related risks of exposure to in-  
23                  door air contaminants; and

1 (B) effective measures and programs for  
2 reducing or avoiding exposure to indoor air con-  
3 taminants;

4 (9) supporting development and adoption of  
5 standardized methods, techniques, and protocols for  
6 assessing, measuring, and sampling indoor air to de-  
7 termine the presence and concentrations of indoor  
8 air contaminants;

9 (10) supporting development and adoption of  
10 control technologies, building design criteria, and  
11 management practices to prevent the entrance of  
12 contaminants into buildings and to reduce or miti-  
13 gate emissions from indoor sources;

14 (11) assessing the effectiveness of methods,  
15 techniques, protocols, response plans, products, and  
16 technologies to reduce or avoid exposure to indoor  
17 air contaminants;

18 (12) supporting the development and adoption  
19 of model provisions, to be incorporated into building  
20 codes for various types of buildings, designed to im-  
21 prove indoor air quality while taking into account  
22 comfort, safety, and energy conservation goals;

23 (13) supporting development and adoption of  
24 control technologies, building design criteria, and  
25 management practices to improve indoor air quality

1 and building resilience against the impacts of more  
2 frequent extreme weather events and other con-  
3 sequences of climate change; and

4 (14) ensuring consideration of disadvantaged  
5 communities and individuals in carrying out the pro-  
6 gram authorized under subsection (a), including by  
7 providing access to financial assistance, technical as-  
8 sistance, and other offerings developed pursuant to  
9 this Act for all people regardless of income, race,  
10 color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability.

11 **SEC. 4. GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR CONTAMINANTS OF CON-**  
12 **CERN.**

13 (a) LIST.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-  
15 tablish and maintain a list of indoor contaminants of  
16 concern.

17 (2) CONTENTS.—The list under paragraph (1)  
18 may—

19 (A) include combinations or mixtures of  
20 contaminants; and

21 (B) refer to such combinations or mixtures  
22 by a common name.

23 (3) INITIAL LIST.—Not later than 5 years after  
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
25 shall establish the initial list under paragraph (1).

1 (b) MINIMUM CONTAMINANTS ON INITIAL LIST.—At  
2 a minimum, the initial list established under subsection

3 (a) shall include—

4 (1) particulate matter;

5 (2) carbon monoxide;

6 (3) nitrogen dioxide;

7 (4) ozone;

8 (5) formaldehyde; and

9 (6) radon.

10 (c) INDOOR AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall  
12 publish science-based, voluntary guidelines for each  
13 indoor contaminant of concern listed under sub-  
14 section (a).

15 (2) GUIDELINE COMPONENTS.—A guideline  
16 published under this subsection shall—

17 (A) include information and a range of rec-  
18 ommendations for operation and maintenance  
19 of existing buildings, the design and construc-  
20 tion of new buildings, building renovation, and  
21 such other activities as are necessary to iden-  
22 tify, and reduce or prevent exposure to, the in-  
23 door contaminant of concern listed under sub-  
24 section (a);



1 (B) be designed to achieve significant risk  
2 reduction;

3 (C) be technologically achievable and read-  
4 ily implementable;

5 (D) take into consideration safety, energy,  
6 and other relevant factors;

7 (E) include an assessment of effectiveness  
8 and cost; and

9 (F) be based on available research and ex-  
10 pertise.

11 (3) CONCENTRATION LIMITS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each guideline pub-  
13 lished under this subsection shall, upon the Ad-  
14 ministrators making a determination that suffi-  
15 cient scientific evidence exists, include a rec-  
16 ommended health-based limit on concentration  
17 levels of indoor contaminants of concern.

18 (B) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE; LOWEST  
19 LEVEL OF EXPOSURE.—A limit under subpara-  
20 graph (A)—

21 (i) shall be based on the best available  
22 science; and

23 (ii) may include a range that in-  
24 cludes—

1 (I) a concentration level at which  
2 a healthy adult should take action to  
3 reduce exposure; and

4 (II) a concentration level at  
5 which there is evidence of adverse  
6 human health effects in susceptible  
7 subpopulations, such as infants, chil-  
8 dren, pregnant women, workers, and  
9 the elderly.

10 (C) INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.—If the Ad-  
11 ministrator determines insufficient evidence ex-  
12 ists to set a health-based concentration limit for  
13 an indoor contaminant of concern listed under  
14 subsection (a), the Administrator shall publish  
15 a report not later than 1 year after making  
16 such determination, which shall identify—

17 (i) studies and other activities to be  
18 taken to develop the evidence necessary to  
19 set a health-based concentration limit; and

20 (ii) resources necessary to carry out  
21 activities under clause (i).

22 (D) INTERIM GUIDELINES.—While the Ad-  
23 ministrator develops sufficient scientific evi-  
24 dence to set a recommended health-based con-  
25 centration limit for an indoor contaminant of

1 concern under subparagraph (A), the Adminis-  
2 trator shall publish interim guidelines, which  
3 shall include best practices to reduce exposure  
4 to such indoor contaminant of concern.

5 (d) REVIEW AND REVISION.—Not less than every five  
6 years, the Administrator shall review and, as necessary,  
7 revise—

8 (1) the list of indoor contaminants of concern  
9 under subsection (a); and

10 (2) the guidelines published under subsection  
11 (c).

12 (e) CONSULTATION.—In developing, reviewing, and  
13 revising the guidelines published under subsection (c), the  
14 Administrator shall consult with organizations and indi-  
15 viduals having demonstrated expertise in indoor air qual-  
16 ity, public health, and building systems.

17 (f) CONSISTENCY WITH INDOOR AIR REGULATIONS  
18 OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

19 (1) LABOR.—

20 (A) CONSISTENCY WITH CERTAIN REGULA-  
21 TIONS.—The Administrator shall, after con-  
22 sultation with the Secretary of Labor, ensure  
23 that the guidelines published under subsection  
24 (c) are consistent with any Federal workplace  
25 regulations addressing indoor air quality risks.

1 (B) ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY ACTIONS.—  
2 Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the guide-  
3 lines published under subsection (c) may rec-  
4 ommend additional voluntary actions to protect  
5 persons other than workers covered by such  
6 guidelines from indoor contaminants of concern  
7 listed under subsection (a).

8 (2) ENERGY.—The Administrator shall, after  
9 consultation with the Secretary of Energy, ensure  
10 that the guidelines published under subsection (c)  
11 are consistent with applicable energy conservation  
12 and efficiency statutes and regulations administered  
13 by the Secretary.

14 **SEC. 5. INDOOR AIR QUALITY INDEX.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall seek to  
16 enter, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
17 of this Act, into an agreement with the National Academy  
18 of Sciences under which the Academy agrees to conduct  
19 a study to assess the feasibility of developing a science-  
20 based indoor air quality index aimed at informing action  
21 for the protection of public health.

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after entering  
23 into an agreement with the Administrator under sub-  
24 section (a), the Academy shall submit to the Congress and  
25 the Administrator a report, which shall—

1           (1) make recommendations to support the de-  
2           velopment of an indoor air quality index while ensur-  
3           ing that such proposed index—

4                   (A) communicates to the public in clear  
5                   and simple terms the level of concern and de-  
6                   scription of indoor air quality;

7                   (B) considers health risks for certain sen-  
8                   sitive groups of people;

9                   (C) addresses the feasibility of assessing  
10                  indoor air quality through low-cost, real-time  
11                  sensors and monitoring equipment; and

12                  (D) allows for updates to account for de-  
13                  velopments in science and harmonization with  
14                  indoor air quality guidelines developed under  
15                  section 4;

16           (2) proposes methodologies, inputs, measure-  
17           ments, techniques, and equations to calculate a  
18           science-based assessment of indoor air quality; and

19           (3) identifies limitations and challenges to the  
20           development of an indoor air quality index.

21           (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
22           authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain avail-  
23           able until expended, to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 6. INDOOR AIR QUALITY ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide  
3 technical assistance and financial assistance, which may  
4 include grants, to State, local, and Tribal governments,  
5 local educational agencies, housing authorities, nonprofit  
6 organizations, and other persons to develop and implement  
7 programs to assess and improve indoor air quality.

8 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Financial assistance awarded  
9 under this section shall be used to support one or more  
10 of the following:

11 (1) The development and implementation of  
12 educational programs, training and technical assist-  
13 ance programs, assessment and monitoring pro-  
14 grams, benchmarking programs, response programs,  
15 and other activities designed to reduce human expo-  
16 sure to indoor air contaminants.

17 (2) Mitigation of health risks from indoor air  
18 contaminants due to more frequent extreme weather  
19 events and other consequences of climate change.

20 (3) Adoption or adaptation by State, local, and  
21 Tribal governments of indoor air quality guidelines  
22 published pursuant to section 4, or development and  
23 adoption of indoor air quality standards based on  
24 such guidelines, including development of assessment  
25 and compliance programs needed to implement such  
26 standards.

1 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share  
2 of the cost of the activities for which financial assistance  
3 is awarded under this section shall not exceed 75 percent  
4 of the total cost of such activities.

5 **SEC. 7. HEALTHY BUILDING CERTIFICATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide  
7 for one or more types of voluntary certifications of build-  
8 ings that are built, operated, and maintained to prevent  
9 or minimize indoor air health risks in an exemplary man-  
10 ner.

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—For a building to be certified  
12 under this section, the owner or operator of the building—

13 (1) shall adhere to applicable guidelines pub-  
14 lished by the Administrator pursuant to section 4;  
15 and

16 (2) shall develop and maintain an indoor air  
17 quality management plan in accordance with best  
18 practices developed or approved by the Adminis-  
19 trator.

20 (c) CONSIDERATION.—A certification process under  
21 subsection (a) may recognize actions taken by the owners  
22 and operators of existing buildings to improve indoor air  
23 quality using the most effective source control, air filtra-  
24 tion, ventilation, and other best practices, techniques, and  
25 products.

1 (d) OPTION FOR THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATION.—

2 The Administrator may—

3 (1) carry out a certification process under sub-  
4 section (a) directly; or

5 (2) recognize a certification process under sub-  
6 section (a) that is developed and administered  
7 through a third party.

8 **SEC. 8. HEALTHY SCHOOLS.**

9 (a) ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOLS AND COVERED  
10 CHILDCARE FACILITIES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall con-  
12 duct a national assessment of indoor air quality in  
13 buildings used by local educational agencies and cov-  
14 ered childcare facilities.

15 (2) ASSESSMENT CONTENTS.—The assessment  
16 under this section, including updates thereto—

17 (A) shall include data and metrics, as de-  
18 termined appropriate by the Administrator, to  
19 track progress in, and challenges to, improving  
20 the indoor air quality in buildings used by local  
21 educational agencies and covered child care fa-  
22 cilities;

23 (B) shall assess whether buildings used by  
24 local educational agencies and covered childcare  
25 facilities achieve acceptable indoor air quality



1 by meeting minimum ventilation rate require-  
2 ments and other factors as set forth by widely  
3 recognized best practices and standards, as de-  
4 termined appropriate by the Administrator,  
5 such as ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1–2022,  
6 Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality;  
7 and

8 (C) may be conducted through a survey, an  
9 onsite representative sampling of buildings (ac-  
10 counting for geography and building size, type,  
11 and age), or other methods or combination of  
12 methods determined appropriate by the Admin-  
13 istrator to accurately assess the condition of  
14 buildings used by local educational agencies and  
15 covered childcare facilities throughout the coun-  
16 try.

17 (3) ADVISORY GROUP.—

18 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator  
19 shall establish an advisory group to provide  
20 guidance and direction in the development of  
21 the initial national assessment under this sub-  
22 section.

23 (B) MEMBERS.—The advisory group under  
24 subparagraph (A) shall include representatives  
25 of—

1 (i) school administrators, teachers,  
2 maintenance staff, and other people work-  
3 ing in buildings described in paragraph  
4 (1), labor organizations, childcare pro-  
5 viders, and parents and caregivers; and

6 (ii) other interested parties, including  
7 scientific and technical experts familiar  
8 with indoor air contaminant exposures, ef-  
9 fects, and controls.

10 (4) INITIAL ASSESSMENT; UPDATES.—

11 (A) INITIAL ASSESSMENT.—Not later than  
12 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act,  
13 the Administrator shall conduct the initial na-  
14 tional assessment under paragraph (1).

15 (B) UPDATES.—Not less than five years  
16 following the completion of the initial national  
17 assessment under subparagraph (A), and each  
18 five years thereafter, the Administrator shall  
19 carry out an update of the previous national as-  
20 sessment under this subsection, accounting  
21 for—

22 (i) the number of schools certified  
23 pursuant to subsection (c); and

24 (ii) changes in the guidelines, best  
25 practices, and other support published by

1           the Administrator to improve indoor air  
2           quality.

3           (5) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Upon completing  
4           each national assessment under this subsection, the  
5           Administrator shall—

6                   (A) submit to the Congress a report on the  
7                   results of such assessment; and

8                   (B) include in each such report such rec-  
9                   ommendations as the Administrator determines  
10                  to be appropriate for activities or programs to  
11                  reduce and avoid indoor air contaminants in  
12                  buildings used by local educational agencies and  
13                  covered childcare facilities.

14          (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SUP-  
15          PORT.—

16                  (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall de-  
17                  velop and promote guidance, best practices, technical  
18                  assistance, training, outreach, and other support to  
19                  improve indoor air quality in buildings used by a  
20                  local educational agency or a covered childcare facil-  
21                  ity.

22                  (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Administrator  
23                  shall tailor guidance, best practices, technical assist-  
24                  ance, training, outreach, and other support under  
25                  paragraph (1) to the needs of—

- 1 (A) students;
- 2 (B) parents and caregivers;
- 3 (C) educators;
- 4 (D) childcare providers;
- 5 (E) maintenance staff and other employees  
6 responsible for operating and maintaining build-  
7 ings referred to in paragraph (1);
- 8 (F) Indian Tribes; and
- 9 (G) low-income and disadvantaged commu-  
10 nities.

11 (c) HEALTHY SCHOOL CERTIFICATION.—The Ad-  
12 ministrator shall ensure that at least one type of certifi-  
13 cation carried out or recognized pursuant to section 7 is  
14 applicable to buildings used by local educational agencies  
15 and covered childcare facilities.

16 (d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Adminis-  
17 trator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Education,  
18 the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Labor, and the  
19 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, to ensure that  
20 any Federal assistance made available to local educational  
21 agencies or covered childcare facilities for building con-  
22 struction, alteration, repair, and maintenance is consistent  
23 with any guidance and best practices developed by the Ad-  
24 ministrator under this Act.

1 **SEC. 9. RELATION TO OTHER LAW.**

2 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act shall  
3 be construed, interpreted, or applied to preempt, displace,  
4 or supplant any other State or Federal law, whether statu-  
5 tory or common, or any local ordinance.

6 (b) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.—In exer-  
7 cising any authority under this Act, the Administrator  
8 shall not, for purposes of section 4(b)(1) of the Occupa-  
9 tional Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C.  
10 653(b)(1)), be deemed to be exercising statutory authority  
11 to prescribe or enforce standards or regulations affecting  
12 occupational safety and health.

13 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There is authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000  
15 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out  
16 this Act.