



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



March 2, 2020

Dear Representative:

The undersigned health and medical organizations urge you to support HR. 5544, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Leadership Act of 2020. Phasing down the production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) -- potent heat-trapping gases used as refrigerants, foam-blowing agents, aerosol, propellants and other applications -- is critical to protecting public health from the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is threatening public health today. Heat-trapping pollutants such as HFCs are driving higher temperatures and more extreme weather. Communities across the country are experiencing health impacts, including from unhealthy ozone pollution, heatwaves, storms, flooding, and smoke from increasingly severe wildfires, and people with lung and heart disease are at particularly risk. These impacts will continue to worsen without action to address climate change.

HR. 5544 will help protect Americans' health from worsening climate impacts. At the same time, the bills ensure that the relatively small amounts of HFCs currently used in metered dose inhalers for asthma patients will remain available until suitable alternatives are developed. There are 36.6 million Americans living with a chronic lung disease, many of whom rely on inhalers to get through the day. The bills protect their access to the medications they need by calling for phasedown in HFC production rather than a total phaseout, and by allowing for continued HFC production indefinitely to serve critical medical uses if adequate alternatives haven't been developed.

By phasing down HFCs in this manner, HR. 5544 will help protect Americans from the health impacts of climate change while ensuring that patients will continue to have access to key medications. We urge you to support the legislation.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alliance of Nurses for Health Environments  
American Lung Association  
American Public Health Association  
Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Health Care Without Harm  
National Environmental Health Association  
Physicians for Social Responsibility