



TO: The Ohio Senate Health Committee
RE: Proponent Testimony From The Ohio Association of Radon Professionals
HB 106 - Designate January as Radon Awareness Month

May 24, 2021

Dear Chairman Stephen A. Huffman, Vice Chair Niraj Antani, Ranking Minority Member Nickie J. Antonio and Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Jeanne Hoffman, and I serve as the Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Radon Professionals. Our members are home inspector radon testers, mitigation specialists and contractors across Ohio. Our membership primarily encompasses small to medium-sized companies and sole proprietors.

The mission of the Association is first and foremost to promote and support programs that raise awareness of radon-gas related issues within Ohio and improve the quality and promote better understanding of radon gas related services.

Working in this industry is more than a job for our members. It is more than a livelihood for their families. It is a career path where our members know they are making a difference in helping to protect the health of Ohioans.

The State of Ohio has the 4th highest level of radon in the nation, and in Ohio you are 17% more likely to get lung cancer than the U.S. average. Nationally, indoor radon gas is the #1 cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the # 2 cause overall.

DNA in the lungs becomes damaged at 2.7 picocuries per liter. At 2 pCi/L your risk of dying from radon induced lung cancer is equal to dying from poison. At 4 pCi/L, your risk is equal to dying in a car crash; at 8 pCi/l your risk is 4 times greater than dying because of a fall in your home; at 10 p/Ci/L your risk is 20 times that of dying in a home fire; and at 20 pCi/L your risk is 35 times greater than death from drowning. However, unlike many of the risks outlined above, radon-induced cancer can be prevented through awareness, testing and mitigation measures.

HB 106 aligns perfectly with the mission of OARP and would serve as confirmation that Ohio's leadership also recognizes and acknowledges the importance of raising radon awareness in our state and protecting the health of its constituency.

This bill in fact has already begun to raise awareness in this General Assembly. Vice Chairman Antani has recently introduced an amendment into the state budget bill that would provide \$2.5 million to cover professional radon testing and mitigation for low-income Ohio residents. While testing and mitigation is affordable for many, some of our largest at-risk populations do not have the resources to remove radon, a known carcinogen, from their homes. Thank you Vice Chair Antani for your recognition of this important need in Ohio.

Thank you to the Committee for the opportunity to submit this statement. I welcome any questions.