

## **North Carolina Public Health Advocates Voice Disappointment in Sen. Murkowski's Dirty Air Act Proposal**

*Urge Lawmakers to Focus on Passage of Comprehensive Climate and Energy Legislation*

**RALEIGH** – Today, North Carolina health care advocates spoke out against the “Dirty Air Act,” a proposal by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) that would reverse 40 years of progress in cutting dangerous pollution. Murkowski’s Dirty Air Act would undermine the Clean Air Act and delay a much-needed legislative solution to address the threat carbon pollution poses to human health and the environment. Their voices echo those around the nation who fear the harmful ramifications if this ill-conceived measure passes the U.S. Senate.

**State Representative Verla Insko, chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and the Health Committee:** “The Clean Air Act reflects decades of documented scientific research on the negative impact carbon pollution has on the health of our citizens. Congress should support EPA’s authority to protect us from harmful pollution, thereby improving health for individuals and lowering medical expenses for our nation. This is not the time to roll back the progress we have made over the last 40-plus years to protect public health.”

Recent polling shows that there is overwhelming support among American voters for policies that limit carbon pollution and invest in clean energy sources. As the EPA has noted in their recent endangerment finding, carbon pollution that contributes to climate change is a danger to public health and welfare, causing increased likelihood of more frequent and intense heat waves, more wildfires, degraded air quality, more flooding, increased drought, harm to water resources and agriculture, and other harmful public health impacts. The proposed Dirty Air Act will gut the law that provides safeguards to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink.

**Steve Shore, MSW, Executive Director of North Carolina Pediatric Society:** “While the health of all people can be affected by the pollution that causes climate change, children are among the most vulnerable. Given the serious public health implications of increasing greenhouse gas concentrations, North Carolina pediatricians oppose Senator Murkowski’s efforts to overturn EPA’s authority to regulate such pollutants under the Clean Air Act.”

This action follows the recent effort of several national public health organizations that sent a letter to U.S. Senators last month, asking them to oppose any legislative effort to overturn or restrict EPA’s endangerment finding. The organizations that signed onto that letter included American Public Health Association, Association of Public Health Laboratories, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Environmental Health Association, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Trust for America’s Health.

Health care professionals join a broad and diverse group of community leaders here in North Carolina who believe comprehensive clean energy legislation is vital to creating jobs, enhancing our national security, and protecting the health of our people and the environment.

###

*North Carolina Pediatric Society is the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. For more information, please visit [www.ncpeds.org](http://www.ncpeds.org)*