

Comment in Support of the \$100 Million Whole-Home Retrofit Program:
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As a retired physician and President of [Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action](#), I strongly support the proposed \$100 million whole-home retrofit program.

While discussions about housing often center on affordability and accessibility, it is equally vital to recognize the profound impact that housing conditions have on our health. Ensuring affordable, energy-efficient, and electrified homes is not only a matter of housing stability but also a critical component of safeguarding the health and well-being of Michigan residents.

Governor Whitmer's bold vision for a state in which every resident can "make it" hinges on the foundational concept of providing safe, affordable, and **healthy** housing for all. However, Michigan's aging housing stock poses significant health risks, contributing to indoor air pollution, while at the same time, leaving those most at risk, vulnerable to ever-increasing extreme heat and cold, and other unprecedented weather events.

The proposed \$100 million whole-home retrofit program is vital to addressing these pressing health concerns. With a staggering percentage of Michiganders struggling to afford adequate housing, investing in programs that enhance the quality, safety, and energy efficiency of existing homes is imperative.

Moreover, by prioritizing electrification, the program will also mitigate the health risks associated with indoor air pollution from gas ovens and stoves. Numerous studies have illuminated the dangers associated with cooking using gas stoves and ovens in our homes, revealing alarming levels of indoor pollution that pose significant health risks to children and families.

[Research from Stanford University](#) has demonstrated that cooking with gas or propane releases hazardous pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, and even benzene, at levels comparable to breathing in cigarette smoke. Benzene, in particular, is a highly toxic chemical linked to anemia and blood cancers such as leukemia, that permeates our living spaces, infiltrating bedrooms and endangering the health of occupants. Simply put, indoor fossil fuel pollution is bad for our health!

As one committed to equitable climate solutions, I also appreciate the provision that would require the MDHHS to collaborate with various departments, agencies, and stakeholders prior to disbursing funds to develop and implement a program that ensures accessibility for low-income renters, homeowners, and landlords. Such a provision underscores a commitment to equity and inclusivity, ensuring that all communities have access to the resources and support needed to thrive. It also paves the way for a healthier, more resilient future for **all** Michigan residents.

In summary, I wholeheartedly endorse the appropriation of funds for the \$100 million whole-home retrofit program. By addressing the urgent need for comprehensive housing

improvements, we can protect the health and well-being of Michigan families and build a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.