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January 14, 2013

The Honorable Bruce Braley  
2263 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Braley:

I write today to commend you for reintroducing legislation to help address the cancer risks associated with radon in public schools across the nation.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network supports public policies that can have a measurable impact on reducing cancer risk, including the risk of lung cancer through minimizing exposure to radon gas. Radon in indoor air is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., second only to smoking. The National Academy of Science estimates that up to 20,000 people die from radon-related lung cancer in the U.S. each year. The largest sources of exposure to radon are homes, schools, and office buildings where people spend most of their time, so it is critical that the radon levels in these locations be tested and sources addressed. Millions of children in high radon zones in the U.S. spend 6-8 hours in school buildings for at least 9 months of the year, therefore these buildings are a significant potential source of unhealthy exposure to radon gas.

Radon is virtually undetectable to human senses – the only way to identify radon risk is to test for the presence of radon gas. According to EPA, there is no safe level of radon.

Your proposed legislation to create a grants program to be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency would create an important source of funding for schools, particularly in states with high radon exposure, to test for and mitigate radon levels to protect children. We are pleased to endorse your legislation.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Hansen  
President