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CLEAN AIR

Allies

Dear Clean Air Ally,

As the 2024-2025 school year winds down, we hope that you and your loved ones are looking forward to the summer. For those in the midst of the end-of-school-year rush, good luck!

Please read on to learn more about:

- An invite to attend our June 17 Zoom meeting to discuss what school IAQ-related resources and training you're interested in
- Updates on AB 832 and the CalSHAPE Ventilation Grant Program
- A new working paper on the importance of air quality to children's health and development
- A news story on Merced doctor and school IAQ advocate Pam Roussos

Thanks as always for your interest in improving school IAQ and in our work! We hope to see you on Zoom on Tuesday, June 17!

In Solidarity,

JuNelle + Liesl

JuNelle Harris and Liesl McConchie
California Parents and Co-Founders, Clean Air Allies

Join Us for a Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 6-7 pm PT

to Discuss School IAQ-Related Resources & Training

We're so grateful to those who were able to join us during our last Zoom in March, where we introduced our work.

For our next Zoom—**on Tuesday, June 17, from 6-7 pm PT**—we'll offer some brief updates. But mainly, we'd love to hear from you about what resources and training you think would be helpful to parents and other school IAQ advocates for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

[Click HERE or below to register.](#)

[Register Here](#)

Update on AB 832 and the CalSHAPE Ventilation Grant Program

Sadly, due to obstruction by [Chair Cottie Petrie-Norris](#), the CalSHAPE extension bill, [AB 832](#), failed to be heard by the California Assembly's Utilities and Energy Committee by May 2. This means that the bill can't proceed during 2025. Without an extension, CalSHAPE grant applications won't reopen and unencumbered monies remaining in the program fund won't be spent as intended for school IAQ/HVAC assessments, maintenance, upgrades, and repairs.

Even worse, almost immediately after the time for bills to be heard in committee expired, a [trailer bill](#) dropped that proposes to give the remaining unencumbered ~\$190 million in the CalSHAPE fund to the investor owned utilities (IOUs) PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, and SoCalGas on July 1.

What is a trailer bill? [Trailer bills are intended to help implement the State's annual budget bill](#), which is finalized by the Legislature by June 15, then presented to the Governor to sign, so that it can take effect by the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1.

Ostensibly, trailer bills deal with budgetary, not policy matters. In practice, they are often used to decide policy matters [without the timeline and process required for ordinary bills](#).

The CalSHAPE trailer bill is similar to the failed [AB 3121](#), which was pushed forward by Petrie-Norris at the last possible moment last year. However, it doesn't propose to use unencumbered CalSHAPE monies to give utility ratepayers bill credits. Instead, in a shift in direction, the ~\$190 million [would supposedly go to offset ratepayer contributions to IOU grid reliability, load flexibility, and demand reduction programs](#). Either way, the per-ratepayer benefit of raiding the CalSHAPE fund would be very small; only about [\\$2-14 dollars per ratepayer on average](#) according to testimony at the Assembly Budget Subcommittee 4 hearing on May 20.

Although Clean Air Allies has been assisting the [educators' union CFT](#) in opposing the trailer bill, given the timeline and lack of public process, it will be difficult to stop.

We're grateful to everyone who spoke out in favor of CalSHAPE in relation to AB 832. It's been the most significant source of state funding for school IAQ/HVAC improvements in California in recent years, so it's extremely disappointing to see a persistent drive to defund the program while much work still remains to be done. Evidently, we have some ways to go in persuading policymakers how vital good IAQ in schools is and convincing them to prioritize it.

Hopefully, through recent efforts, we have at least helped to raise awareness. Clean Air Allies served as a background source for an article in *Politico Pro* and also was featured in a [news story](#) on ABC7 TV in Los Angeles.

Looking forward, it will be important to make sure that the California Energy Commission (CEC) timely processes the reporting paperwork of schools that have already been awarded CalSHAPE grants, and that their final checks go out before the program budget is liquidated and any awarded but unspent funds revert to the IOUs. Under existing statute, this is scheduled to happen on December 1, 2026.

We're currently working to get a complete response from CEC to a Public Records Act request (California's version of FOIA) for information on the processing status for schools that have submitted their CalSHAPE reporting paperwork.

We'll keep you updated.



New Harvard University Working Paper on the Importance of Air Quality in Early Childhood

On May 20, Harvard University's [Center on the Developing Child](#) issued a new working paper that explores the many ways air quality impacts the health and well-being of children and recommends actionable solutions for improving IAQ.

This paper, [Air Quality Affects Early Childhood Development and Health](#), focuses primarily on IAQ as we typically spend 90% of our time indoors. It concludes, "Clean air is an essential part of a healthy developmental environment, and ensuring that children and their caregivers have clean air to breathe in all the spaces where they spend time—both indoors and out—is key to supporting long-term health and well-being."

Click [HERE](#) to read the full working paper, including the actionable solutions proposed to improve IAQ for children. An [InBrief version](#) is also available.

[Read the Harvard Working Paper](#)

Air Quality Affects Early Childhood Development and Health

WORKING PAPER 3

 Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Merced Doctor and School IAQ Advocate Pam Roussos Interviewed by YourCentralValley.com

Doctor and school IAQ advocate Pam Roussos was interviewed by [YourCentralValley.com](https://www.yourcentralvalley.com) on April 30. Among other efforts, Roussos has served as a parent advocate in relation to a school district IAQ pilot study and filed an IAQ-related *Williams* complaint and appeal.

In the interview, Roussos discusses Long Covid in kids, its impact on physical and mental health, and its relationship to chronic absenteeism. According to Roussos, in addition to better diagnosis and treatment, better prevention of Covid as well as other respiratory illnesses is needed, with proper IAQ being a key strategy.

There should be “a comprehensive look at air quality and ventilation,” Roussos says. “Especially in schools.”

Read and watch the written and video portions of [Roussos's interview HERE](#).

We'd love to share coverage of school IAQ advocates as inspiration. Please pass on to us items of potential interest.

We hope to see you on [Zoom](#) on June 17.

For any questions, please contact us at cleanairalliesorg@gmail.com.

Clean Air Allies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all schoolchildren, school workers, and their broader communities have access to the benefits of clean air as an issue of educational, environmental, and health justice.

Please help Clean Air Allies continue our efforts by donating today!

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