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Our energy code needs a much stronger approach to climate change - for our children's future

My name is Amanda Millstein, MD. I am a primary care pediatrician in Richmond, California and a co-founder of Climate Health Now, which is a group of over 370 physicians, nurses, and public health professionals across California advocating for a just transition off fossil fuels to protect health. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

As a primary care pediatrician, I see every day the ways in which climate change -- caused by the burning of greenhouse gasses -- is already impacting child health. From wildfire smoke exposure to greater numbers of premature births to an increase in depression and anxiety among children and adolescents, the climate crisis is a health crisis.

Indoor combustion of fossil fuels is particularly detrimental to health. Children who grow up in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop asthma symptoms, and homes with gas stoves can have nitrogen dioxide concentrations that are 50% to 400% higher than homes with electric stoves. Children living in rentals with smaller spaces and less ventilation are especially at risk -- surveys estimate that only 35% of Californians use range hoods when cooking. A recent UCLA School of Public Health study reports that switching to all-electric appliances would prevent enough NOx and PM2.5 in our outdoor air quality to save 354 lives and prevent hundreds of cases of respiratory illnesses each year -- enough to deliver \$3.5 billion in health benefits.

The climate crisis is a health crisis, no more so than for our children. Our energy code needs a much stronger approach to climate change. Now is the time to stop burning fossil fuels inside our buildings and shift to all electric. California has an opportunity to lead -- let's take it and go.