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Nurses In All 50 States Support Strong Federal Standards for Clean Cars And Trucks

Letter to EPA Administrator highlights the importance of clean air for public health, equity, and environmental justice.

Washington — In a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan, nearly 200 nurses from all 50 states call on the EPA to finalize strongest possible standards to limit health-harming tailpipe pollution from cars and trucks. The EPA is currently in the rulemaking process for new tailpipe emissions standards that apply to model years 2027–2032 [light-](#), [medium-](#), and [heavy-duty](#) vehicles.

Tailpipe pollution is linked to poor health outcomes and higher incidences of chronic conditions like asthma, lung disease, and cancer. By reducing air pollution-linked premature deaths and hospitalizations, EPA's proposed rules for light/medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles are expected to save up to [\\$280 billion](#) and [\\$29 billion](#) in avoided health care costs respectively.

"Transportation pollution harms the health and safety of Americans across the country, generating millions of tons of ozone- and particle-forming NOx emissions and particle pollution every year," said **Katie Huffling, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN, Executive Director the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments**. "Our network of nurses and health professionals sees firsthand how harmful tailpipe emissions can be, especially to vulnerable populations like children, pregnant people, and those with chronic respiratory conditions like asthma. We urge the Biden administration to swiftly finalize the strongest possible standards to cut climate and air pollution from the transportation sector to protect public health and mitigate the worst impacts of the climate crisis."

The transportation sector is also the [largest source](#) of greenhouse gas pollution in the United States, making up nearly 30% of total annual emissions. When poor air quality due to vehicle emissions coincides with climate-related risks, such as extreme heat or ground-level ozone, adverse health effects are further amplified. By finalizing the strongest possible clean car standards for cars and trucks, EPA will aid frontline communities who are the most exposed to air pollution and the hardest hit by climate change.

"Air pollution across my home state of Michigan harms our state's most vulnerable residents - especially children - first and worst," said **Kindra Weid, RN, BSN, MPH, Michigan Air**

Michigan Health's It's Electric Coalition Coordinator. "Our kids are breathing polluted air every day, even in the school buses they ride on their school commute. It's time for the EPA to move forward with the strongest possible rules to reduce air pollution from cars and trucks and help electrify our transportation sector - especially our school buses! Michigan's kids can't afford to wait for cleaner air."

"In many parts of Nevada, especially in the Reno and Las Vega areas, residents live every day under the haze of pollution from cars and trucks, contributing to a slew of health problems, including chronic respiratory conditions, heart disease, and cancer," said **Michael Collins, board member of the Philippine Nurses Association of NV.** "Nevada's transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state and a major contributor to harmful air pollution. Nevadans need the EPA to take swift action now and finalize the strongest standards to reduce pollution from cars and trucks. Our lungs depend on it."

"As a health professional and Arizona resident, I have seen firsthand how air pollution harms the health and safety of communities across the state. As recently as New Year's Day, the air pollution in the Phoenix metro area was so bad, it was deemed hazardous for anyone with pre-existing health problems," said **Pat VanMaanen, MS, BSN, RN, health consultant and chair of the Arizona Nurses Association climate change and health workgroup.** "According to the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report, Maricopa County is the 7th most polluted county in the country. Our residents deserve cleaner air and we urge EPA to move forward swiftly with strong standards to cut pollution from cars and trucks."

About the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE): ANHE is the only national nursing organization focused solely on the intersection of health and the environment, promoting healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy. ANHE prepares and engages nurses to assure the environmental health of all people, overcome environmental health disparities, and to heal our communities and the earth for present and future generations.

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