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U.S. House of Reps. Passes Amendment to Protect Students from Mold in Schools

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. House of Representatives tonight overwhelmingly passed an amendment to H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act authored by U.S. Representative Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) which will protect students in Florida and throughout the nation from the dangers of mold and mildew in schools.

"When your learning environment is the source of your illness, you can't even begin to think about academics," remarked Representative Hastings. "Clearly, our students should not have to sacrifice their health and well-being to receive an education. Years of disinvestment in our educational system have led to unmanageable school sizes and patchwork facilities which disregard the health implications for students. Today, we will fix that oversight."

Considerable research has shown that exposure to mold and mildew, as well as other contaminants that compromise indoor air quality, can

cause adverse health conditions which interrupt the learning process among students. These poor air quality conditions can be particularly pronounced in portable school units often found at overflowing schools throughout Florida and the nation. The Hastings Amendment to H.R. 3021 allows federal funds to be used for mold and mildew abatement in schools.

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act directs the Secretary of Education to make grants and low-interest loans to local educational agencies for the modernization and repair of public school facilities, encourages the building of "green schools," and establishes funding for the repair of schools damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Hastings Amendment was rolled into a the Manager's Amendment offered by the Chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee, Representative Dale Kildee (D-MI). H.R. 3021 is expected to pass the House later this evening and will then await consideration by the Senate.

GO FIGURE!

On average, students and faculty spend seven-and-a half hours a day, five days a week, 180 days a year, in school. That equates to less than 900 hours per year spent in a school building.

Adults and children of all ages spend an average of 17 hours a day at home, seven days a week, 365 days a year at home. That equates to more than 6,200 hours per year is spent within the confines of a home.

Because of the dangers exposure to mold at school can cause, legislation must be adopted to protect children.

Because of the dangers exposure to mold at home can cause, insurance companies, builders and others need to be protected.

Can someone please explain the logic?