



**TO: Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee**  
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**SUBJECT: House Bill 26-1272**

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The American Lung Association offers support for House Bill 1272.

Extreme heat is no longer an occasional inconvenience—it is a serious and growing safety concern, and it directly affects lung health, especially for workers exposed to outdoor conditions, dust, fumes, or poor air quality.

When temperatures rise, our bodies work harder to cool themselves. Breathing becomes faster and deeper, which means the lungs take in more air—and with it, more pollutants, dust, smoke, and chemical particles. During extreme heat events, air quality may also be worse due to ozone and wildfire smoke, increasing the strain on the respiratory system.

Heat also causes dehydration, which dries out the airways and reduces the lungs' ability to clear irritants. This can lead to coughing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and increased risk of asthma attacks, bronchitis, or other respiratory complications. These effects may not always be immediate, but repeated exposure can have long-term consequences.

From a safety perspective, heat-related respiratory stress also impacts decision-making, reaction time, and overall job performance—raising the risk of accidents and injuries.

Preventing these outcomes requires proactive measures. The American Lung Association supports efforts to improve surveillance and reporting of heat-related injury and illness, as well as the development of protection and response plans contained in HB 1272.

Protecting lung health during extreme heat prevents cumulative harm, preserves workforce capacity, and reduces avoidable long-term disease. Proactive regulation protects workers and strengthens public health resilience.

The American Lung Association encourages your support of House Bill 1272.