Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today

October 5, 2023

The Honorable Julian Cyr
The Honorable Marjorie C. Decker
Chairs
Joint Committee on Public Health
Massachusetts Legislature
24 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02133

Re: H. 4098, "An Act to Improve Indoor Air Quality"

Dear Chairs Cyr and Decker:

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global technical society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 53,000 members, including over 1,000 in Massachusetts, focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

We are writing to you regarding H. 4098, which would develop a comprehensive, statewide plan to help assess and set priorities for improving Indoor Air Quality in public buildings. **ASHRAE supports the goal of this legislation and its reference to ASHRAE standards. We suggest strengthening the bill further by specifically referencing ASHRAE Standards 62.1, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, and ASHRAE's new Standard 241, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*.**

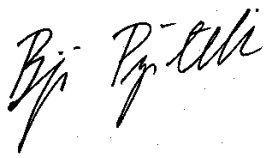
Adhering to the appropriate standards and guidance is essential to managing indoor air quality. ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2022, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality*, specifies minimum ventilation rates and other measures intended to provide indoor air quality that is acceptable to human occupants and minimizes adverse health effects due to poor indoor air quality. It defines the requirements for ventilation and air-cleaning system design, installation, commissioning, and operations and maintenance. It is intended for use in new buildings, as well as additions or changes to existing buildings. In addition, we also recommend the bill specifies the most recent, up-to-date edition of Standard 62.1, which is currently the 2022 edition. This latest edition includes updates to the procedures and methods for meeting minimum ventilation and indoor air quality requirements, and a continued focus on indoor air quality, including improvements to the Indoor Air Quality Procedure (IAQP.)

ASHRAE has also recently developed the new Standard 241, *Control of Infectious Aerosols*, a standard for buildings that is focused on airborne infection risk mitigation. It establishes minimum requirements for building owners, operators and professionals to improve IAQ by reducing the risk of airborne disease transmission by infectious aerosols. Standard 241 is meant to be applied in periods of elevated risk, for example the risk of transmission of pathogens like the SARS-COV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. Under these conditions, buildings would operate in "Infection Risk Management Mode," and building

operators would have the flexibility to choose between different equivalent clean air options based on what they determine is appropriate for that type of space, along with their specific energy use goals or cost restrictions. This flexibility makes Standard 241 a powerful tool for mitigating transmission risk that can be adapted for use in different types of buildings, in combination with Standard 62.1.

In summary, we support the aim of H. 4098 to improve indoor air quality in public buildings, and believe that can be done most effectively by referencing ASHRAE Standards 62.1 and 241. Thank you for your focus on indoor air quality and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Pignatelli
Chair, Government Affairs Committee & Member of the Board of Governors
ASHRAE Boston Chapter