



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

April 20, 2022

The Honorable Jonathan Steinberg
Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
Connecticut General Assembly
300 Capitol Avenue Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

Letter sent via email to: Jonathan.Steinberg@cga.ct.gov

Re: HB 5479, "An Act Concerning Indoor Air Quality in Schools"

Dear Chair Steinberg:

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 51,000 members, including over 550 in Connecticut, 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 House Bill 5479, "An Act Concerning Indoor Air Quality in Schools." We appreciate the bill's inclusion of ASHRAE Standard 62.1, [Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality](#), in the requirements for the proposed "routine indoor air quality monitoring program" for public school facilities. Standard 62.1 specifies minimum ventilation rates and other measures intended to provide indoor air quality that is acceptable to human occupants and minimizes adverse health effects, such as breathing difficulties, due to poor indoor air quality. We also suggest that the bill specify the most recent, up-to-date edition of Standard 62.1, which is currently the 2019 edition. This latest edition includes updates to the Ventilation Rate Procedure, the Natural Ventilation Procedure, and revised requirements for air-cleaning devices.

In addition to our existing standards such as 62.1, ASHRAE has developed guidance over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate airborne pathogen transmission for several building types and operational conditions, including for [school facilities and for reopening schools and universities](#). Incorporating this technical guidance into the proposed air quality monitoring programs could help reduce viral risks and further improve the health and productivity of students and teachers.

In summary, we appreciate your committee's approval of the inclusion of ASHRAE Standard 62.1 in House Bill 5479, and also suggest specifically referencing the most recent edition of the standard, which is 62.1-2019. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact

me or have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Mick Schwedler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael CA (Mick) Schwedler, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, LEED AP
2021-22 ASHRAE President

cc: The Honorable Josh Elliott
The Honorable Mitch Bolinsky
The Honorable Michael Winkler