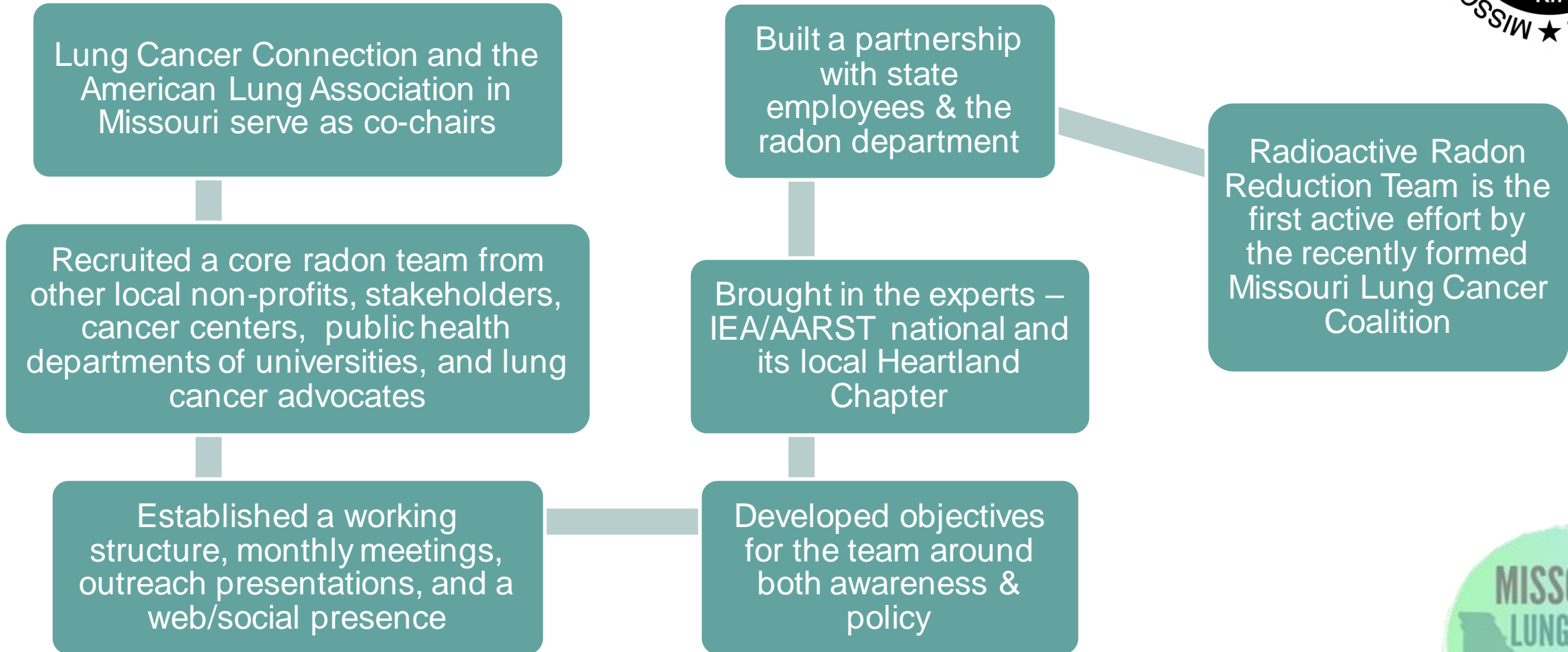


# MO Case Study: Certification Law

Rachel Sanford  
Manager, Health Promotions  
American Lung Association  
Member – Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition



# Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition Radioactive Radon Reduction Team



# Missouri Radon Report Card


Indoor Environments Association / AARST, 2024

## MISSOURI

### The Radon Report Card: Risk and Response

#### Population and Lung Cancer Total Population: 6,121,623

 Lung Cancer Deaths: 3,559

 Age-Adjusted Lung Cancer Incidence Rate (per 100,000) 67

Lung Cancer Cases 5,408

Radon-Induced Lung Cancer Cases 850

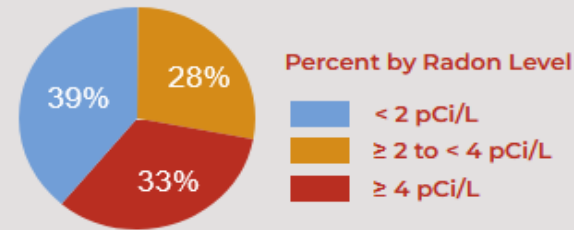
\* Medical Costs (hospital, medicine, doctors) \$171,000,000

\* Economic Costs (lost wages / productivity) \$179,000,000

#### Statewide Radon Policies

Credential Required	✗	None
Radon Standards in Effect	✗	None
Homebuyer Protection Required	✗	None
Radon System Requirement for New Homes	✗	No
Type of New Home Where Required		N/A
Standard/Code for Radon System in New Homes		N/A
School Testing Required	✗	No
Radon System Requirement for New Schools	✗	No

#### Buildings and Exposure Potential Pre-Mitigation Radon Tests: 36,073



#### Housing Units by Structure Type

	1 to 4 Units	5 or More Units	Total
Existing	2,447,370	340,463	2,787,833
New	11,956	5,504	17,460

#### Public Schools: 2,460

EPA and ANSI-AARST Radon Measurement Standards recommend fixing a building with a radon level ≥ (above or equal to) 4 pCi/L and consider fixing it if any radon level is ≥ 2 and < (below) 4 pCi/L.

Total Population; Lung Cancer Deaths; Age-Adjusted Lung Cancer Rate (per 100,000); Lung Cancer Deaths: CDC US Cancer Statistics (2018). Estimated Radon-Induced Lung Cancer Cases: Lung Cancer Cases weighted by scaled mean radon levels, CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (2003-2020). National Cancer Institute, Cancer Trends Progress Report (2022) and Productivity Costs of Cancer Mortality in the US (2006). Statewide Radon Policies: IEA staff compilation, 2024. Pre-Mitigation Radon Tests from State: CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (2003-2020). Existing Housing Units and New Housing Units: US Census (2019). Public Schools: National Center for Educational Statistics (2020-2021).



# Assessing the Landscape

- Reviewed our state challenges, qualified radon professional workforce, and the legislative environment
- Connected with the Missouri Cancer Consortium and Missouri Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
- Studied and validated the level of radon risk in Missouri, reviewing the percentage of and averages of homes  $\geq 4.0$  pCi/L by region
- Reviewed other state policies, including models from national association (Indoor Environments Association)
- Created spreadsheets of bill supporters - a working document for ongoing supporter outreach
- Developed Stakeholder Letter and our “Why” – Rationale Statement document





# “Why” Document – Rationale Statement



Information Provided by:

## HB 2451 - Regulation of Radon Professionals Through Certification and Licensing Why Is It Necessary?

Missouri House Bill 2451 is seeking private certification, and state licensing of radon professionals because radon is a substantial health risk. Not requiring licensure for individuals providing measurement, inspection, and mitigation places Missourians at risk of inaccurate testing and ineffective mitigation systems, thus increasing the risk of developing lung cancer. Increased public awareness about the health risks of radon exposure is also increasing demand for professional radon services. Ensuring the public has access to trained and qualified radon professionals is the first step needed in the State of Missouri.

The US EPA, the Surgeon General, and Missouri's own state health department strongly recommend that ALL property owners have their building tested for the presence of indoor radon. Hiring the services of radon professionals who are certified by an EPA-recognized proficiency program is the only way to ensure public protection.

### Radon - A Significant Lung Carcinogen:

- **Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.** The U.S. EPA estimates 21,000+ lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year are attributed to radon exposure.
- **Missouri ranks 6th in the nation for the highest numbers of lung cancer cases and deaths (previously ranked #7).**
- **Thirty-three percent of all Missouri homes tested are above the U.S. EPA Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L\*, and 49 of Missouri's 115 counties are rated at high risk for elevated radon due to average radon levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L.**  
\*pCi/L: picocuries per liter of air

Many homes throughout the State of Missouri have not been tested, and there is no way to fully understand the associated health risk without continuing to test more homes.

Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, and radioactive gas that enters homes from the earth. Any home or building can have elevated radon concentrations



regardless of levels in neighboring homes and buildings. Radon is the primary cause of lung cancer among people who have never smoked. Radon presents a risk for everyone. Children have almost twice the risk of lung cancer from radon exposure as adults exposed to the same concentrations of radon. Those who smoke or have smoked in the past are at an even higher risk. There is no known threshold at which radon exposure presents no risk. Major medical and public authorities have stated the dangers of radon exposure, including the American Medical Association, U.S. Surgeon General, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Academy of Sciences, World Health Organization and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### Radon Licensure for Professionals:

HB2451 seeks to ensure public health and safety and provide consumer protections when hiring a radon measurement or mitigation specialist, as well as to require laboratories and inspectors to be certified and licensed with the state.

Improper mitigation can fail to decrease radon levels or even increase levels by drawing radon back into the home at concentrated levels. The homeowners are led to believe they have purchased an effective mitigation system when they realistically could still be living within high levels of radiation exposure. Requiring licensing through

certification will help to protect the consumer from these situations.

### How the Process Will Work:

HB2451 mandates that the State of Missouri regulate radon professionals doing business in the state through a licensure process. In this scenario, an individual seeking licensure as a professional radon tester, mitigator, or testing laboratory would take the following steps to be eligible for licensure through the state of Missouri:

- 1) Complete the relevant private EPA-approved training and certification proficiency program. Currently the two EPA-approved programs are NRPP and NRSB.
- 2) Apply to the State of Missouri to receive a license. The process for licensure would include:
  - Completing a registration process and paying a fee prescribed by the department.
  - Presenting proof of certification by an EPA-approved proficiency program
  - Furnishing evidence of a general liability insurance policy.

\* The licensing process is managed through the State of Missouri. The radon professional is responsible for the application fee and for acquiring and retaining the appropriate liability insurance.

### EPA-Approved National Proficiency Programs require radon professionals to:

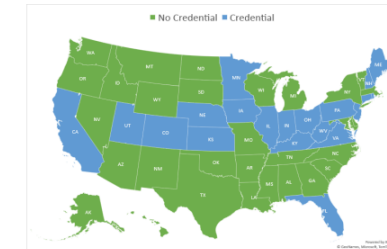
- Complete a comprehensive initial training course;
- Pass a rigorous competency exam;
- Perform regular quality assurance procedures;
- Submit proof of annual instrument calibration and performance evaluations;
- Fulfill relevant continuing education requirements;
- Recertify every two years.

### Other States:

There are twenty states that regulate professional radon services. Missouri is part of EPA Region 7 which also includes Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. **The other states in EPA Region 7 all require certification and licensure, yet Missouri has a significantly higher rate of new lung cancer cases than any of the other states in this region.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> American Lung Association (2022). *State of Lung Cancer Report, Missouri* <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/missouri>

In many states that regulate radon, legacy laws required the state to directly implement every aspect of the regulatory



process (standards, training, exams, application review and more). The proposed approach relies on public-private industry consensus standards and EPA-approved private proficiency programs, focusing the state government staff role with credentialing on receiving evidence of the certification and insurance along with the license fee. This streamlined design is working in several other states including Colorado, Indiana, and Kentucky.

### Radon Testing Demand Expected to Increase:

As awareness of radon risk increases, due to new radon guidelines and requirements from EPA, ANSI, FHFA and HUD, demand for qualified radon professionals will continue to grow.

### Additional References:

- AARST Radon Report Cards**  
<https://aarst.org/report-card/>
- ALA State Credentialing Of Radon Service Providers Saves Lives**  
<https://www.lung.org/getmedia/96aee1a1-daa1-481c-84db-dce829139aae/State-Credentialing-Programs-for-Radon-Services.pdf>
- ALA State Data Missouri**  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hFiEHq1rEKFayWUHOSKzPm5C9gTum/view?usp=sharing>
- Hope Light Foundation Radon Analysis MO**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rdw3EC10Tz-qF23kOVIElVfG-I\\_01NK/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rdw3EC10Tz-qF23kOVIElVfG-I_01NK/view?usp=sharing)



# Developing the Legislative Proposal

- Reviewed and developed model bill; continued revisions to resolve concerns
  - Gained neutrality from executive branch agency
  - Received input from national association and industry experts
- Determined what state agency / statute should be used to implement registration/licensing oversight
- Developed fiscal note to show how costs to government are addressed
  - Balancing costs to radon professionals and state





Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, after smoking. Radon is estimated to cause over 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S. **It is estimated that, on average, 1 in 3 homes in Missouri have dangerously high levels of radon.**

Learn about radon and what you can do to protect you and your family from the dangers of radon. **Free radon test kits mailed to participants.**

Presented by the Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition in partnership with the American Lung Association and the University of Missouri | MU Health



Virtual

Thursday, January 18, 2024

6:00 p.m.

American Lung Association & St. Louis County Library

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3NipWVY>



## JANUARY IS RADON ACTION MONTH

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas you can't see, smell, or taste. Radon exposure is a serious health issue as it can cause lung cancer. Radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

**#2** Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. Radon is estimated to cause over 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S.

### INVISIBLE RADIOACTIVE

Radon occurs in the ground naturally, but can leak into homes through cracks and openings in floors and walls. It can be found in both new and old homes.

### 1 OUT OF 3

homes in Missouri have high radon levels.



[WWW.MOLLUNGANCERCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.MOLLUNGANCERCOALITION.ORG)

## TIME TO TAKE ACTION

Testing is the only way to know if your home has high levels of radon. Testing every 2 years is recommended.

### HOW TO GET A RADON TEST

- Purchase test kits from National Radon Program Services. <https://so.radon.org/test-kits>
- Purchase test kits at online retailers or home improvement stores.
- Request a free test kit from the Missouri state radon program by scanning the QR code.
- Hire a licensed radon professional to perform a test.

### CONTACT YOUR STATE RADON OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

The EPA recommends you take action to reduce your home's indoor radon levels.

Contact your state radon office to find a licensed radon professional.

In Missouri:  
radon@health.mo.gov  
(866) 628-9891  
or  
(573) 751-6102

### FIND A LICENSED RADON PROFESSIONAL

National Radon Proficiency Program  
<https://nrpp.info/pro-search/>  
National Radon Safety Board  
<https://www.nrsb.org/find-a-pro/>

## CURRENT STATE POLICIES

### RADON INDUSTRY REGULATION



# Building Awareness

- Conducted radon awareness webinars through the American Lung Association/STL County Library and University of Missouri/MO Cancer Consortium
- Distributed nearly 30,000 radon awareness bookmarks to libraries across Missouri for NRAM
- Attended community events; provided free test kits and radon awareness information
- Created case study with photos and descriptions of defective systems
- Targeted social media advertising



# Introducing the Legislation

- Planned a “Day at the Capitol”
- Identified an initial bill sponsor and submitted a draft bill for introduction
- Identified legislators to target
  - Leaders on key committees
  - Legislators whose constituents are involved in this effort
  - Conducted outreach to legislators to schedule meetings
- Conducted training/talking points for advocates attending meetings
- Created leave behind packets with “Why” Document, draft bill, MO report card
- Documented follow-up process and ongoing work





# Legislator Outreach

## Meeting request e-mail:

Representative (or Senator) \_\_\_\_\_,

I hope you're doing well. I have a new policy related to radon, the second leading cause of lung cancer, that I would like to get introduced this session and am reaching out to you today to see if we can set up a call or meeting to discuss the policy and whether you might consider sponsoring the bill. This seems like it might be a potentially good fit for \_\_\_\_\_ [fill in the blank with the relevant committee].\*

Please let me know if you have any interest in learning more about the policy, and I'd love to set up a call with you when you are available to talk about it further.

Sincerely,

## Post-meeting follow up e-mail:

Dear [Lawmaker or staffer name],

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us this week to discuss House Bill 2451, which would require private certification and state licensing of radon professionals providing radon testing and mitigation. This is an incredibly important issue to us because one out of three Missouri homes tested have dangerously elevated radon levels, and our state has the sixth highest level of lung cancer cases and death rates in the nation.

[Insert 1-2 sentences about highlights of the meeting, what you appreciated, etc.]

We hope that you might consider co-sponsoring HB 2451 [or sponsoring a Senate version of the bill, if in the Senate], as well as voicing your support for it as it moves through the legislative process. Attached is our position statement and the Missouri Radon Report Card.

Please let us know if you have any questions related to radon, this legislation, or other related topics. We'd be happy to provide further information that would help answer those questions.

We both wish you all the best and look forward to great things from your office.

Thank you,

[Your name and title]

[Your individual organization if you would like it included here]

Missouri Radioactive Radon Reduction Team  
Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition



# Legislator Outreach: Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, January 30th, 2024



## DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Please stop by to visit our table and attend the presentation to learn more about radon, the second leading cause of lung cancer, and what can be done to help Missourians protect themselves from radon exposure

**Schedule**  
9 am - 4 pm - Display table (3rd Floor Rotunda)  
1:30-2:30 - Presentation (3rd Floor Rotunda)

**Location**  
Missouri State Capitol  
201 W. Capital Ave.  
Jefferson City, MO 65203

**Featured speakers:**

<b>Laura Turner</b> Executive Director American Lung Association - Missouri, Arkansas	<b>Cherie Summa, P.E.</b> Senior Air Quality Engineer Missouri Industrial Environmentals Association	<b>Jane Malone</b> National Policy Director Industrial Environmentals Association
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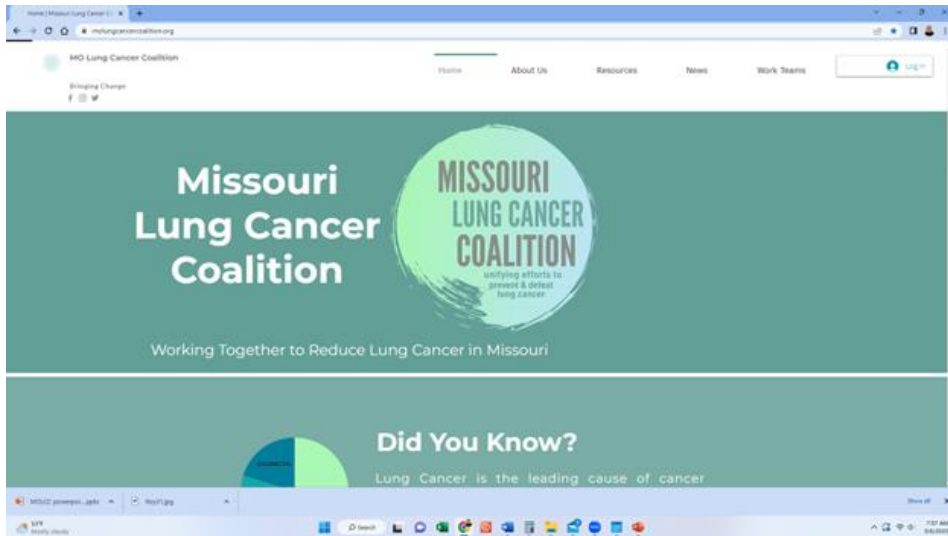
# Looking Ahead – Our Continued Work

- Passage of new Licensing and Certification Bill (typically, several year effort)
- Ongoing Public Awareness through Radon Outreach, Videos, Events
- Continue to Strengthen and Build New Partnerships and Supporters with:
  - Local and state national environmental organizations
  - Housing and public health agencies
  - Cancer survivors and other lung health advocates
  - Cancer Control Program / Consortium /Coalition
  - American Lung Association State Advocacy Leads
  - Tenant organizations
  - Affordable housing advocates
  - IEA/AARST Chapter/Members
  - State Radon Program





# How to Find/Support Us



- **Website**  
MOLungCancerCoalition.org
- **Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/MOLungCancerCoalition>
- **Twitter**  
@MoLungCancerCo
- **Instagram**  
<https://www.instagram.com/molungcancercoalition>

