

We, the graduate workers and students in Pauli Murray Hall (formerly Hamilton Hall), stand in solidarity to protest UNC-CH's neglect of our workplace. The State Assembly, the Board of Governors, and UNC-CH's leadership have not prioritized funding for maintenance. Deferred maintenance makes the campus inaccessible and risks the health and well-being of everyone at UNC-CH. Pauli Murray Hall's compounding facilities issues make it a prime example of how much deferred maintenance infringes on the rights of workers across campus and their ability to access and safely work on campus.

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year and the longer history of the building, elevators have consistently broken down. This, as a recent *Daily Tar Heel* article demonstrates, is ["a violation of civil rights."](#) The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that [employers make worksites accessible to all employees](#). Pauli Murray Hall also houses several classrooms on floors only accessible by stairs and elevators, and students who use mobility aids are unable to access the upper floors without elevator access. This too is a clear breach of the ADA and UNC-CH's [stated commitment](#) to make education accessible to all.

Further, Pauli Murray Hall, along with other buildings across campus, was [recently discovered to have lead in its water fountains](#). UNC-CH had not performed checks on these water fountains until a student group discovered the contamination, and it has not consistently released information on which buildings are being tested, how potable water can be accessed, and how everyone at UNC-CH can access testing for lead poisoning. UNC-CH's neglect of these water fountains has put workers and students in Pauli Murray Hall, and other buildings around campus, at risk. Per the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), all businesses are to ensure that [potable water is always accessible to employees](#).

Finally, Pauli Murray Hall is one of many buildings on campus that were [constructed with significant levels of asbestos](#). Summer maintenance consistently opens vents and poses the risk of disturbing this asbestos, releasing it into the building. The university needs to act to remove this asbestos to ensure no one in Pauli Murray Hall is exposed to this carcinogenic material.

As graduate workers and students within the History, Political Science, and Sociology Departments that are housed in Pauli Murray Hall, we demand UNC-CH act to ensure our workplace is safe and accessible. All of us deserve to have full access to Pauli Murray Hall specifically and UNC-CH as a whole.