

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 09, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 14) appropriations bill for Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education, we respectfully request \$29 million to restore the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program.

The number of children suffering from lead poisoning remains unacceptably high, with more than 500,000 U.S. children under the age of 6 suffering from elevated blood lead levels. Research has established that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children. Even low levels of lead cause brain damage in infants and toddlers, resulting in poor educational outcomes and further widening the achievement gap.

Children can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources, most notably, from lead-based paint. According to the 2011 American Healthy Homes Survey (AHHS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an estimated 37.1 million homes have lead-based paint somewhere in the building.

There are already over 500,000 children with blood lead levels above CDC's reference value.<sup>1</sup> These exposures are preventable. CDC is the only agency that houses the information about where, how, and when children are poisoned. This information enables health and housing agencies to target enforcement and funds to the highest risk areas. Between 1997 and 2008, CDC's lead program served 850,000 children with dangerous blood lead levels. In 2011, recipients of CDC grants tested more than four million children for lead and conducted case management for nearly 30,000 children. The program has been nearly eliminated as a result of cuts to the program that were made in fiscal year 2012.

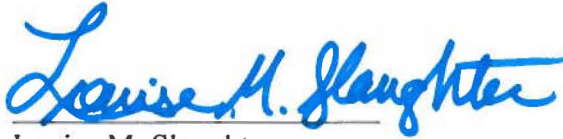
Now is not the time to scale back on essential lead poisoning prevention programs. We must do everything we can to protect our children from lead poisoning. Thank you for your support of the

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<sup>1</sup> In January 2012, the National Advisory Committee on Lead Poisoning Prevention recommended that the CDC lower its level of concern from 10 mg/dL to 5 mg/dL.

CDC Lead Poisoning Prevention program. We greatly appreciate your leadership and consideration of these requests.

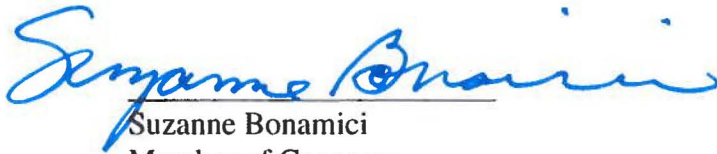
Sincerely,



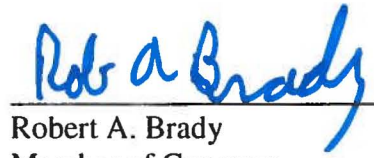
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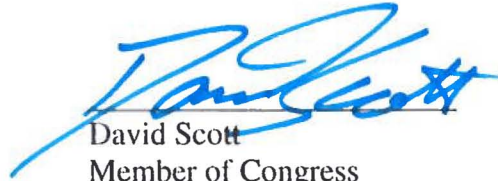
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Jan Schakowsky  
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



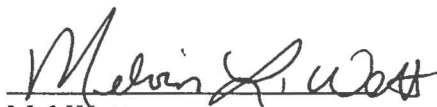
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