
From: e-Dear Colleague

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 12:50 PM

To: E-DEARCOLL_ISSUES_G-Z_0000@ls2.house.gov

Subject: HealthCare: Dear Colleague: Eliminate Lead Poisoning and Protect Children

Eliminate Lead Poisoning and Protect Children

From: The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter

Sent By: Sarah@mail.house.gov

Date: 5/11/2011

Improve the Health and Safety of Housing

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in supporting two letters for lead and healthy housing efforts by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Fiscal Year 2012 (FY 12).

These requests are of particular importance, as the President's Budget for FY 12 proposes to merge the Healthy Homes/Lead Poisoning Prevention Program with the National Asthma Control Program, and recommends cuts to their combined budgets by over 50 percent.

Lead poisoning remains the number one preventable environmental health concern for children in America today. Lead poisoning prevention is increasingly being integrated into comprehensive healthy housing interventions. As the U.S. Surgeon General noted in his call to action on June 9, 2009, "In America today, the leading preventable causes of death, disease, and disability are asthma, lead poisoning, deaths in house fires, falls on stairs and from windows, burns and scald injuries, and drowning in bathtubs and in pools."

The two letters request:

1. \$50 million in funding for lead and healthy housing case management and inspections by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. \$175 million in funding for the Housing and Urban Development's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention

As you may know from participating programs in your district, CDC-funded lead and healthy housing projects seek to eliminate lead poisoning and enhance public health through innovative prevention, case management, education, and inspections programs.

States that receive funding include: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia & Wisconsin. Cities and counties that receive funding include: Chicago, Detroit, District of Columbia, Los Angeles County, New York City and Philadelphia.

The HUD request of \$175 million would restore this office to approximately its FY 04 funding level. These highly targeted grants improve the lives of American children and their families by reducing their risk of serious health hazards in their homes. These funds are vital to helping cities and states to eliminate lead poisoning and reduce the root causes of childhood asthma, the leading cause of elementary school absences.

To join this letter, please contact Sarah Norman in Congresswoman Slaughter's office at 5-3615 or Sarah@mail.house.gov by May 18, 2011.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Robert A. Brady

MEMBER OF CONGRESS