

March XX, 2011

Dear Secretary Sebelius and Members of the House and Senate:

It saddens me that Congress is planning to poison more children. The cuts to the already insufficient programs that work to reduce childhood lead poisoning will ensure that more children are poisoned. Lead poisoning has long been identified as a preventable disease lacking only the willingness of government to remedy the situation it created by allowing lead into the housing environment.

Communities cannot defeat this silent disease without continued public health awareness in environmental investigation, case management, education, outreach, healthy homes capacity building, and advocacy funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grants to Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs. The CDC has initiated a 50% cut to the lead program for FY 12. We implore you as a leader in the legislative branch to prevent the cutting of \$16 million from this vital program while merging lead with the asthma program. CDC has presented no compelling case for merging the programs, cutting either program or for cutting the combined program. There will be no accountability by CDC for ensuring that these programs meet the local needs for responding to lead poisoned children while building the future, based on primary prevention of lead poisoning and other diseases triggered or exacerbated by environmental exposure in the home. With only half the funds that each program has received in the past, programs will reach significantly fewer states and local communities in great need and be unable to manage the minimal level of services needed. Health departments are usually the first contact with the families after a child is diagnosed with elevated lead levels, prompting the environmental investigation and subsequent actions.

Every person signing this letter is the relative of a child who has been lead exposed. We do not want to see another child go through what our children have experienced or deal with the resultant lifelong challenges in the classroom, in the workplace, and in the home. We do not want another family to encounter the bureaucratic indifference and environmental health ignorance of the clinical, housing, and educational systems should another child be diagnosed with elevated lead levels.

Please contact the American Lead Poisoning Help Association should more information be desired, at www.ALPHALeAD.org or info@ALPHALeAD.org

Sincerely,

(names to be listed here)

[to join this sign-on please send your name, city, state, email address to
alphalead@comcast.net]