



Dear Senator/Representative,

The toxic legacy of lead still impacts over half a million American children under the age of six every year – causing irreversible damage and robbing them from reaching their full potential. Exposure occurs through exposures from air, drinking water, food, contaminated soil, and deteriorating paint. An estimated 1.1 million housing units are among the most at-risk for causing childhood lead poisoning across the US. Lead poisoning robs children of their ability to thrive and contribute. Young children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning because they absorb 4-5 times as much ingested lead as adults from a given source. Lead exposure changes the structure and function of children’s developing brains, causing damage that cannot be repaired. Lead exposure leads to poorer academic performance, behavioral health problems and lifelong diminished opportunity.

We are requesting your support for the Lead-Free Future Act of 2019, a bill that will set standards and increase investment to support lead remediation in housing, drinking water, and soil in pre-1978 residential properties in communities across the country, including those who have traditionally be unable to access existing lead remediation funding. The Lead-Free Future Act is a bold plan to protect the next generation. It matches the level of investment with the scale of the problem. Through leveraged federal investment and prevention-focused standards, this legislation aims to eliminate the major sources of lead exposure for America’s children over the next five years. The main elements of the legislation are:

Investments:

- \$12 billion in Lead Clean-Up Grants over 5 years (\$2.4 billion annually): Administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Grants will remediate lead hazards in housing, drinking water, and soil in pre-1978 residential properties in low-to-moderate income communities, including rural jurisdictions and other areas that aren’t typically able to receive other lead remediation funding.
- \$500 million over 5 years for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (\$100 annually): Funding will support blood lead surveillance, outreach and education in all states, territories and tribal lands. Ensures that lead poisoning prevention resources are allocated based on the most complete and data-driven picture of lead poisoning risk.
- A mandate for states and jurisdictions to move to the CDC-recommended blood lead reference level in order to be eligible to receive any federal poisoning prevention funds.
- A requirement that lead-based paint and lead hazards in drinking water and soil are assessed and remediated prior to sale, transfer or occupancy of federally-assisted properties
 - o Ensures that federal dollars will no longer be used to propagate lead hazards in the residential property market

Outcome:

Together, these investments and policies will holistically reduce the risk of lead exposure for this generation of children, unlocking health and education potential and resulting in a measurable return on investment.

Economic Impact:

A combined average return of \$2.77 for every dollar spent removing lead-based paint hazards and replacing lead service lines in pre-1978 housing, derived from lowered education and health costs and increased tax revenue (based on a 2017 study by Pew Charitable Trusts).

We thank you for your support of lead poisoning prevention and we ask for your continued leadership to ensure that we end the toxic legacy of lead once and for all!

HR 4416 – Lead-Free Future Act of 2019 was introduced by Representative Jared Golden (D-ME-2) on 9/19/19. The co-sponsors are now the following representatives: Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL-5); Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA-17); Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40); Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY-16); Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1); Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI-4); Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY-9). It was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Veterans Affairs committee.

Sincerely,

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative