

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

March 25, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairmen Rogers and Cochran, Ranking Member Lowey and Vice Chairwoman Mikulski:

Flint, Michigan is currently experiencing a water crisis due to high levels of lead in the drinking water. Lead is a potent neurotoxin that will have lifelong impacts, especially on children. Some of those impacts include impaired cognitive brain functions, increased likelihood for violent behavior, and reduced academic achievement and intelligence quotient (IQ). Although the effects of lead are permanent, services can be provided to those who have been exposed to lead that can support them to become productive members of society.

The events in Flint have increased awareness of lead issues in drinking water across the U.S., resulting in numerous communities that will have to respond to lead exposure. As you create the Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations bills, we ask that you prioritize the following programs to help support communities, like Flint, that have been impacted by lead exposure:

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- **Drinking Water State Revolving Funds** to help improve the quality of water infrastructure and remove lead pipes from drinking water systems.
- Also under the **Drinking Water State Revolving Funds**, allow for loan forgiveness for loans made in previous fiscal years and remove any current cap on loan forgiveness for drinking water systems that have had issues with lead.

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

- **Early Start and Head Start** to help change the trajectory of young children, who are most susceptible to lead exposure, towards more productive lives.

- **Preschool Grants (Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)** to leverage state funds to improve preschool opportunities.
- **Health Resources and Services Administration** to increase access to health care through the creation and expansion of health centers including school based health centers.
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** funding. Lead exposure is anticipated to increase the need for special education services as kids will suffer from lower educational achievement and behavioral difficulties as a result of being exposed to lead.
- **Community Support for School Success (Title IV-F-Subpart 2 of the Every Student Succeeds Act)** to provide educational support services to children living in the most distressed communities.
- **School Improvement Programs** to hire additional teachers to reduce class sizes and to provide professional development for teachers to help them teach children that have been exposed to lead.
- **Promise Neighborhoods** to help build the strong neighborhoods that are the foundation of a strong community.
- **School Improvement Programs** to repair the damage done to the schools' plumbing and water heaters from corrosive water and to eliminate additional sources of lead in schools.
- **Student Finance Assistance (PELL Grants), Career and Technical Education and Work Study** to help students and families to afford higher education, to assist students with workforce-related training and to support students once they begin higher education.
- **Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research (Vocational Rehabilitation Grants)** to help those who have had their cognitive functions impacted by lead exposure to gain employment.
- **Department of Labor's Training and Employment Services** to help those impacted by lead exposure to find jobs.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations

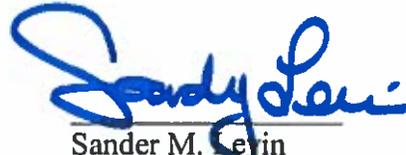
- **Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes** to help educate the public about the dangers of lead, mitigate exposure to lead and eliminate potential exposure to lead.

We appreciate your consideration of our requests and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

 <hr/> Daniel T. Kildee Member of Congress	 <hr/> Debbie Stabenow U.S. Senator	 <hr/> Gary C. Peters U.S. Senator
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John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress