

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2005

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary,
and HUD
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary,
and HUD
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Bond and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to thank you for your longstanding leadership in protecting children from lead poisoning and to urge your continued support for adequate funding in Fiscal Year 2006 for initiatives to protect at-risk children from lead poisoning and other health hazards in their homes. With appreciation for the difficult task you face this year in providing enough funding for the many worthy domestic programs under your jurisdiction, we write to urge you to provide at least \$185 million in funding for HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control.

The record is clear that these funds are vital to helping cities and states achieve the national goal of ending childhood lead poisoning by 2010 and reducing root causes of diseases like childhood asthma, the leading cause of elementary school absences. For FY 2006, the President's budget request proposes a drastic \$48 million cut below FY 2005 levels for these programs. This would be a major step in the wrong direction.

Within a total \$185 million appropriation, we urge you to provide \$95 million for lead hazard control grants, \$50 million for the High Lead Area Removal Initiative, \$20 million for the Healthy Homes Initiative, \$10 million for Operation LEAP, and \$10 million for technical assistance. These funding levels are vital to maintaining and building momentum for protecting children at highest risk for lead poisoning and asthma.

Increasing grants for healthy homes and lead safety will help build capacity to develop and disseminate cost-effective maintenance and remodeling practices. These investments in preventing disease will reap enormous benefits for America's families, schools, and economy.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests, and for your continuing support of these important goals. If we can provide you with any additional information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Tom Hark

Paul S. Sarbanes

Allen Felt

Frank R. Lautenberg

Maria Canino

Herb Kohl

E. Benjamin Jelenc

Ed Johnson

John

Rebbie Steenew

Robert A. Neuhoff

J. L. L.

Mrs Feizahl

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Janet Keating

Chris Dodd

Jim Jeffords

Dick Durbin

Mike DeWine

Mark Dayton

Paul Kennedy

Eric Boehl

RWZ

Barbara Boxer

Blanche L. Lincoln

Alvin Brown

P. L. Chafee

105 / Rubin

Tom F. Kelly

Carl Levin

Daniel H. Claitor

Barack

Mary G. Gordon

Patrick Leahy

Charles Schumer

Ken Salazar

Jay Byrnes
