



Current Legislation on Child Lead Poisoning in the U.S.

May 3, 2016

S. 2848 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reauthorization

Passed through Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

- Authorize \$1.4 billion in grants over five years for small and poorer communities to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act, with priority given to those without “basic drinking water or wastewater services.”
- \$700 million in low-interest loans to finance upgrades to public drinking water systems. These loans will be made possible through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), which will be available to eligible communities in all states, including Michigan.
- \$100 million in new funding for an emergency infrastructure program under the Safe Water Drinking Act, for communities that have received a federal emergency declaration by the President for high amounts of lead in the water.
- \$17.5 million to create a national registry to monitor health effects of children exposed to lead
- \$2.5 million for an advisory committee coordinated through the CDC or other agency to analyze federal programs that address lead exposure and identify best practices as well as where there is still increased need for research
- \$32.5 million provided to help improve the short- and long-term effects of lead poisoning
- Amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to require public water systems to notify their customers of lead concentration levels in drinking water that exceed lead limits under national primary drinking water regulations.
- Authorizes grants of up to \$300 million over five years for communities to replace lead service lines
- \$100 million over five years for a grant program to carry out a voluntary school and child care lead testing program
- \$50 million a year for EPA to make grants to accelerate the development of innovative technologies to address pressing water challenges.
- \$10 million over two years for the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund, which educates the public and health providers, supports research, and provides funding to states to address and prevent childhood lead poisoning.
- \$10 million over two years for the HUD Healthy Homes Program, which provides grants to states to identify and mitigate a variety of environmental health and safety issues such as lead, mold, carbon monoxide, and radon.
- \$10 million over two years for the HHS Healthy Start Initiative to assist pregnant women and new mothers by connecting them to necessary health care and other resources needed to foster healthy childhood development.

S. 2821 The TRUE LEADership Act (The Testing, Removal and Updated Evaluations of Lead Everywhere in America for Dramatic Enhancements that Restore Safety to Homes, Infrastructure and Pipes Act of 2016)

\$70 billion over 10 years into water infrastructure and lead relief programs, including:

- A new grant program to provide assistance to replace lead service lines
- Establishing mandatory testing, monitoring, and reporting of elevated levels of lead in children and directs the CDC to investigate hotspots in the area
- Update federal law to require communities to notify the public of lead in water systems
- Require EPA to establish requirements for electronic reporting of water test quality results and maintain data-base of cross-agency results (such as CDC blood-level tests)
- Federal grant program through the EPA to help school districts test their water for potential lead contamination
- Key reforms to HUD authorities and creates a new tax credit for homeowners to remove lead
- Protects for children in federally assisted and low income housing by ensuring that federal lead standards for housing are in compliance with the best available science
- A new grant program for schools to aid children with the after effects of lead poisoning
- Accelerates development of new water technologies

H.R. 5070/S. 2830 Lead Testing in School and Child Care Drinking Water Act of 2016

(Also included in True LEADership Act)

Help schools and childcare centers test their drinking water for potential lead contamination by establishing a new federal grant program for childcare centers and schools that choose to test for lead.

H.R. 4694/S. 2631 Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2016

(Also included in True LEADership Act)

Directs EPA and HUD to issue regulations to update the standards for lead-contaminated dust and lead-contaminated soil.

S. 2586 Thorough Evaluation of State Testing to Kick-start Investigations before Damage is Suffered Act (TEST KIDS Act)

(Also included in True LEADership Act)

Requires CDC to direct states to report the number of residents under two years old who have elevated blood lead levels.

FY2017 Senate Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

The spending bill includes a comprehensive series of initiatives to address lead-based paint hazards in our nation's low-income housing stock. These include reforms to current policies, quality controls for physical inspections, expansion of HUD's oversight and enforcement capacity, and additional funding for Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) and low-income homeowners to address lead-based paint hazards.

FY2017 House Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The spending bill includes report language asking the USDA to report to Congress on what it's doing to ensure safe drinking water in schools and childcare facilities participating in meal programs. It's something that's required under the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, but not strictly enforced.