



To: Representative Ann Pugh, Chair and Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Abigail Rogers, Director, Advocacy and Government Affairs,
March of Dimes Northeast

Date: February 25, 2017

Re: **H. 736 An act relating to lead poisoning prevention**

On behalf of the March of Dimes Northeast Region, I would like to express support for H. 736. Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. The effects of lead exposure cannot be corrected.

The goal is to prevent lead exposure to children before they are harmed. There are many ways parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead. The most important is stopping children from coming into contact with lead. Lead hazards in a child's environment must be identified and controlled or removed safely. The foundation supports requiring testing for blood test levels in children at the age of one and two years of age. It is important to provide education about taking precautions in older homes to ensure there is no lead exposure.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. The foundation supports efforts on lead exposure prevention for children, and pregnant woman. We support expanded education and public health awareness of lead exposure to women of child bearing age and young families.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abigail Rogers', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Abigail Rogers

Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, Northeast

Arogers2@marchofdimes.org