



Vermont Chapter

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April 1, 2019

The established harms of children's exposure to lead are irreversible and alarming. Thankfully, they are also entirely preventable. As the VT House considers S.40, please keep our children in the forefront of your mind.

For lead exposure seen today in the United States, more long-term symptoms are the most common effects. The best-studied is cognitive impairment, as measured by IQ tests. Effects on hearing and balance may occur at commonly encountered blood lead levels. Research also shows students with elevated lead levels are more inattentive, hyperactive, disorganized, and less able to follow directions at school, with one study showing higher drop-out rates and reading disabilities.

As health professionals, we see the impacts of lead exposure on Vermont children. That is why we are thankful that the Governor and the legislature has taken up the important issue of reducing lead in drinking water in Vermont's schools and childcare facilities. However, we urge you to strengthen S.40 language to **fully fund** the testing and remediation program so that the health of all Vermont children is adequately protected.

As Vermont pediatricians, we urge you to do right by Vermont's children and pass an evidence-based, health-protective bill that is fully funded to implement the program without delay. Reducing children's exposure to lead through drinking water is an important step towards a healthier Vermont.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "jillrinehart".

Jill Rinehart, MD FAAP
President