

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

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro,

In considering the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 appropriations bill for the Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies, we respectfully request \$29 million to fully support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

There are more than 500,000 children from 1-5 years old with blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter in the U.S., levels that can lead to lifelong cognitive damage. Even low levels of lead cause brain damage, and CDC has determined that there is no "safe" level of lead for a child. For every 1 microgram per deciliter increase in blood lead levels, exposed children suffer an additional \$3,000 to \$8,000 loss in lifetime productivity, and even levels of 1 microgram lead per deciliter lead to measurable reductions in IQ. In 2010, there were more than 12 million children in the U.S. with blood lead levels above this threshold, and African-American children are three times more likely than white children to experience lead poisoning.

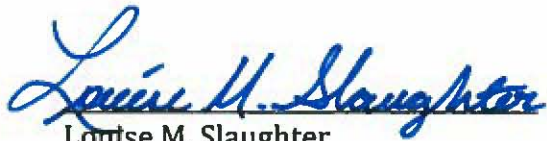
CDC is the only agency that keeps track of where, how, and when children are exposed. This surveillance information is essential for health and housing agencies to best target funds and enforcement to the highest risk areas.

After experiencing a drastic reduction in funding in 2012, the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was partially restored in the FY 2014 budget. The FY 2014 funding level of \$15 million will allow CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to once again support 41 state and local health agencies in tracking incidence and causes as well as to fund small area surveillance and a few primary prevention pilot projects. More effort will be needed in FY 2015 to protect the greatest number of children from the harmful effects of preventable lead hazards. With a funding level for this program of \$29 million, CDC will be able to help 36 communities implement prevention strategies such as inspecting all units in multi-family housing when a child with a high blood lead level is identified in one unit; canvassing high risk neighborhoods to conduct lead inspections; partnering

with local agencies to ensure compliance with lead-based paint requirements; and coordinating with home visiting programs to identify and refer high risk homes for support in obtaining lead-safe housing.

We must continue with this important work to support the health and welfare of children. Thank you for your continued support of the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. We greatly appreciate your leadership and consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



David Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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*Bobby Scott*

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
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