



October 15, 2009

The Honorable Senator Barbara Mikulski  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Conference on Interior/Environment Appropriations (H.R. 2996) & EPA Categorical Grants for Lead

Dear Senator Mikulski:

On behalf of the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition, we urge you to support full funding of the President's request for the EPA's Categorical Grant for Lead at \$14,564,000.

This program provides critical federal support to states and tribes for administering lead-based paint certification and enforcement programs under delegated authority. In addition to supporting efforts to ensure those in the lead abatement field are appropriately trained and licensed, this program will also support state efforts to implement the new Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule. This major new rule will require renovators working in most pre-1978 housing to be trained and certified in lead safe work practices. Given the fact that in some locations in the United States up to 50% of lead poisonings are caused by sloppy renovation work, the new rule is an unprecedented opportunity to protect children's health from the dangers posed by lead-based paint.

The President's budget request included an additional \$1 million in support over FY09 levels for this critical program. While the Senate included this additional funding in its version of the appropriations bill, the House level funded the program. We believe that the additional \$1 million, while far short of what is required, is absolutely essential to ensure that states are able to even maintain this critical program, let alone adequately expand it to cover the full scope of the new rule. Therefore we strongly urge you to support the Senate funding level during the conference process.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick MacRoy at 202-347-7610 x14 or [pmacroy@afhh.org](mailto:pmacroy@afhh.org).

Respectfully,

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