

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 45-18

INTRODUCED BY: MedChi Public Health Committee
MedChi Student Section

SUBJECT: Lead Levels in Rental Properties

1 Whereas, lead is a neurotoxin for which there is no safe level; and
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3 Whereas, children are the most vulnerable to the preventable, but irreversible danger of lead
4 poisoning; and
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6 Whereas, children ingest and absorb more than adults, and the developing brain is more sensitive
7 to the effects of lead exposure than the adult brain; and
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9 Whereas, no known threshold for the effects of lead have been identified¹, including the effects on
10 an individual's IQ²; and
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12 Whereas a new study has found hyperactivity in children whose levels averaged 3.5 micrograms³;
13 and
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15 Whereas, at very high levels, lead exposure can cause vomiting, lethargy, seizures, and death; and
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17 Whereas, at lower levels, even asymptomatic exposures can be responsible for decreasing IQ,
18 increased distractibility, impulsivity, short attention span, and inability to follow directions; and
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20 Whereas, CDC and HUD have reduced action levels to 5 micrograms per deciliter; and
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22 Whereas, even levels below this 5 micrograms per deciliter can reduce a child's intellectual and
23 academic ability, and lead to deleterious behavior, and
24
25 Whereas, each IQ point raises worker's productivity and the economic lifetime losses in the United
26 States attributable to lead exposure have been estimated to be between \$165-233 billion in the
27 cohort of children less than or equal to 6 years of age in 2006⁴; and
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29 Whereas, primary prevention, that is, removing the sources of lead before exposure occurs, is the

¹ <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/1/e20161493>

² Toxicological Profile for Lead, U.S> Department of Health an Human Services. Public Heralth Service. Agency for Toxic Substances and and Disease Registry Agust 2007 p.25. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp13.pdf>

³ Childhood Blood Lead Levels and Symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): A Cross Sectional Study of Mexican Children 12/9/17 <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/0800408>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2717145/>

1 most reliable and cost-effective way to protect our children, per the American Academy of
2 Pediatrics⁵; and

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4 Whereas a Baltimore Sun investigative report⁶ on rental court recently documented that families
5 were allowed to rent even where inspectors found that there were lead hazards noted in the rental
6 unit; and

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8 Whereas, pediatricians cannot be expected to manage such care without the help of the health
9 departments; and therefore be it

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11 Resolved, that MedChi support legislation that the Maryland Department of Health intervene in
12 cases where children are exposed to lead levels of at least 5 micrograms per deciliter.

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As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 22, 2018.

⁵ <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/1/e20161493>

⁶ <http://data.baltimoresun.com/news/dismissed/>