

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

November 28, 2017

Senator Richard Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Robert Menendez  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tim Scott  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

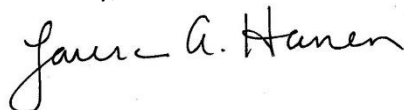
Dear Senators Durbin, Menendez and Scott:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I write to offer strong support for the *Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2017*. NACCHO represents the nation's 3,000 local governmental health departments that are on the front lines of the surveillance and response to childhood lead poisoning.

Lead poisoning is completely preventable, but there are still over 535,000 children with elevated blood levels in the United States. There is no safe level of lead exposure and lead damage can be permanent and irreversible, leading to increased likelihood for behavioral problems, decreased IQ and cognitive function, developmental delays, attention deficit and reading disabilities, and failure to graduate from high school. Very high levels of lead exposure can cause seizures, coma, and even death. Low-income children and children of color are disproportionately impacted by lead poisoning. The most critical step we can take is to prevent lead exposure before it occurs.

The *Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2017* would be a significant step in reducing lead exposure, particularly for children in lower-income families. NACCHO thanks you for sponsoring this important legislation, and looks forward to helping move it forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to NACCHO Government Affairs Specialist Ian Goldstein at 202-507-4273 or [igoldstein@naccho.org](mailto:igoldstein@naccho.org).

Sincerely,



Laura Hanen  
Interim Executive Director & Chief of Government Affairs

