

October 18, 2002

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Subcommittee on VA-HUD-IA Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Mikulski,

This letter affirms the City of _____'s strong support for the \$75 million proposed in the Senate version of the FY 2003 VA-HUD-IA Appropriations bill for the creation of a new lead hazard reduction demonstration program focused on major urban areas where children are disproportionately at risk for lead poisoning. We will also strongly urge the House to support this funding. As a city battling against the ravages of lead-based paint, any new source of funding is a welcomed response to the overwhelming need to abate the nation's low- and moderate-income housing inventory.

We ask that if this program is enacted that Congress give consideration to expanding the program in future years to include other cities and counties, beyond the 25 major urban areas where the lead hazard risk for low-income children under the age of 6 is greatest. Jurisdictions across the country face great financial challenges of ridding low- and moderate-income housing of lead-based paint. It is a difficult challenge because no new resources have been provided by the federal government to assist communities in reducing this enormous health threat. Many of these communities are using their CDBG and HOME funding to help rid low- and moderate-income units of lead-based paint; however, because the expense of de-leading these units is so great, these program dollars are stretched thin and fewer affordable units are being assisted than ever before. New federal resources are desperately needed to assist communities in ridding low- and moderate-income homes of lead-based paint and the City of _____ fully supports the proposed \$75 million in new lead hazard reduction funding. We urge you to fight for this funding during the FY 2003 appropriations process.

Please let us know how we can help to ensure that this new funding source is enacted this year.

Sincerely,