

Testimony on H.B. 166: Main Operating Budget for FY 2020 - 2021 House Finance Committee

May 7, 2019

WRITTEN ONLY

Chairman Oelslager and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly to you today;

My name is Diana King and my two sons youngest sons suffered from lead poisoning. We had my second son tested for autism and as it turned out he was on the spectrum. We also found that the reason for it was most likely due to lead contamination. He was tested and found to have a very high amount of the dangerous metal in his blood. As a result the health inspector came to our house and tested the property. We learned that the soil was contaminated as well as other area of the building. When we first moved into our house the land was just dirt and grass next door. Now there is concrete that covers up the lead. But, by this time I had already given birth to our youngest son. Both of them tested positive for lead contamination though our youngest was found not to be autistic. Both of my children have struggled in school, but they are succeeding.

I'm glad to be here today to testify with hopes that my story will make more homes in Ohio lead safe. I've been outspoken on the issue of lead poisoning for many years. I'm tired of warning mothers to get lead testing knowing that their heartbreak could be prevented if more resources and funding were available to make homes more lead safe before children are poisoned.

Every year, thousands of Ohio children under the age of six test positive for unsafe lead levels, this is unacceptable. It has come to my attention that Governor DeWine in his budget proposal recommended that Ohio invest more than \$10 million over the next two years to address lead poisoning in Ohio, I hope that the legislature takes these recommendations seriously. Thank you for your time and consideration.