

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Oelslager

Vice Chair Manning

June 6, 2017

Lindsay Loman

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Lindsay Loman, I live in Columbus and I'm the parent of three lead-poisoned children. I'm here to oppose the lead preemption amendment in HB 49.

My youngest child tested at 10.2 blood lead level at a well child check up. The health department came out to educate us and tested our home and yard. A swab test revealed that there was lead dust on our new laminate kitchen floor. A soil test revealed that the soil in my Clintonville yard is at 500ppm. Under 90 is considered a "safe level" of lead for children. There is NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD!

Lead dust is everywhere. It can be present in yards that haven't even had renovations. Chipping paint on the exterior of a home causes lead dust to travel across properties on windy days. If this is the case, how would a visual lead assessment be valid? A swab test will reveal the invincible monster that is lead dust. It's prevalent in the majority of homes built before 1978. Yet when houses are purchased its merely a clause that you sign stating that your aware of the possibility of lead paint, but it's undisclosed. Nothing more! Homeowners need to be educated on the hazards that lead can cause in children and adults.

It's a frontal lobe brain injury that is irreversible. Once those synapses are dead you can't get them back. You can try to create new neuropathways to try to lessen the learning disabilities and aggressive behavior but these are unfortunately inevitable and early interventions for lead poisoned children are unattainable.

1 in 3 children in America are lead poisoned. All of these statistics brought to you by the CDC or health department or wherever are only children under 6 years old and children at a BLL level higher than 5 μ g/dl. This excludes my 3yo who had a BLL of 3.31 at one year and my 8yo daughter that tested at a BLL of 2 μ g/dl. 2 of my 3 lead poisoned children

don't fall into that statistic.

This secret epidemic is REAL. Why are MY CHILDREN, OUR children the lead detectors, putting numbers on a map showing where lead is more prevalent.

It's obvious, in neighborhoods where majority of houses are built before 1978, there is lead in the soil and all over the houses inside and out. This needs to be known and there is only one way to make this a reality and that is by taking steps forward. By amending this bill we'll only be taking steps backwards and allowing more children to be lead poisoned.

The obvious preventative measure would be to disclose lead hazards to home buyers and explain the long term irreversible affects to the brain and how easy it is to become lead poisoned from the most minuscule amount of lead dust. If landlords think it's unfair then they are feeling the same as I am.

My home is currently under lead abatement orders that I cannot afford. No, it's not fair that I had the well child check up that changed our life forever, the swab test that revealed the lead dust culprit. But I'm going to make it right and take every step to abate all known sources of lead off of my property instead of passing it on to the next unlucky family and leave them to find out for themselves the hard way. I'm going to make it right for my children, the neighbor's children and any future children that may live there one day. Let's not hurt one another by withholding obvious information but team together, to protect one another and oppose this amendment.

Local governments are trying to make progress in lead prevention instead of being reactionary. Look at Rochester. After the city's local lead inspection laws were passed, the area of had an 80% drop in the number of children with high lead levels! Let's lead by example and pray other cities and states will follow!

Legislation of this importance is not to be rushed!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. I'd be happy to answer any questions.