

My name is Elaine Wolter. I'm a retired public health nurse from the city of Cincinnati. I'm also retired from working in hospice home care. My whole career has been working in people's homes helping them and their families through multiple illnesses and sometimes death. I'd like to bring your attention to what is going on now. We are at a crossroads.

I'm going to take you on a short walk down memory lane. Back in the 20s the oil and gas company decided to add tetraethyl lead, TEL, (see handout) to their gasoline to combat the knocking noise in car motors. They decided that no one would notice the problems even though five people in their own labs died from lead poisoning. They reasoned that the effects would not be great enough in the community to cause problems for generations.

Scroll forward until the 1970's when suddenly we had unleaded gasoline! Lead is a heavy metal, it settles on our roads, yards and on our streets and especially in our inner cities. All people have lead levels in their systems because of the lead that was spewed by the gas companies over decades. (How they managed to shift blame to the paint companies I will never understand!) Children are especially vulnerable to the poisoning effects of lead causing problems with learning, IQ, concentration and a host of things that you can read about. We in public health have worked against the scourge for years costing our communities dearly in the poor health of its citizens and untold taxpayer dollars.

Scroll forward to what is occurring now. We have chemicals in this brine that are have been legislated to be unknown because of something called the Halliburton loophole, (see handout) that was put into affect back in 2004. They are so toxic we are not even allowed to learn their names! This brine not only contains these fracking chemicals but also radioactive waste. As we speak these chemicals are being put on our streets and again, our most vulnerable, our children will be exposed to these hazards.

You have an opportunity to stop this now before we have a whole new catastrophe on our hands. You, at this juncture have the power to give good health to this generation and the next generation and the one after that.

Please take your legal and moral obligation seriously and do the right thing. You can then you can go home and kiss your children with a clear conscience.

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