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## **PA LEAD FREE PROMISE PROJECT LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN IN STATE CAPITOL**

***Unveils #PALeadFreeHouse – a Statewide Legislative Promise to Advance the  
Fight to End Lead Paint Poisoning***

**Harrisburg, PA (May 25, 2022)** – The Lead-Free Promise Project, a coalition of more than 53 organizations across the state, launched the #PALeadFreeHouse Legislative Promise Initiative at a Capitol Rotunda press conference on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The #PALeadFreeHouse Legislative Promise Initiative is seeking a commitment to protect children in the districts of each of the 203 Pennsylvania House members, by taking a stand against lead paint poisoning. Each Representative that signs onto the #PALeadFreeHouse Legislative Promise will receive a Lead-Free Promise Project paint brush to display as a sign of their commitment to ending lead poisoning in children once and for all.

“Childhood lead paint poisoning is a significant public health crisis that still effects thousands of Pennsylvania children every single year that can cause serious permanent brain damage,” said PA State Representative Jim Struzzi (PA-62). “The sad part is this is 100% preventable — we must do better to protect our future generations by ending lead paint poisoning.”

“There are no safe levels of lead poisoning, but in many communities in Pennsylvania kids are poisoned at double the rate of kids in Flint Michigan at the peak of the city’s crisis,” said Jeffrey R. Martin, MD, Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Penn Medicine

Lancaster General Health and Co-chair of the Lead-Free Promise Project. “The Lead-Free Promise Projects wants to change that by once and for all ending lead paint poisoning.

“By investing in ending this poisoning today, we not only are ensuring our kids can lead healthier and safer lives, but our county and whole state benefit as well.”

Joining in the launch was Charla Plaines, a grandmother from Dauphin County, who understands the danger and impact of lead paint poisoning.

“I have seen first-hand what lead paint poisoning does to a child — the serious harm and adverse effects it creates to a perfectly healthy child,” said Plaines. “No family should ever have to go through this, and it is time our legislators listen and take action — our children, Pennsylvania’s children, deserve that.”

Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in lead exposure with having the second largest number of children testing positive for lead poisoning among all states. Still to this day, 7,000 Pennsylvania children are poisoned every year, and this is an entirely preventable condition that can rob children of their future by causing irreversible brain damage — and there are not nearly enough resources to help suffering families.

The Lead-Free Promise Project (LFPP) launched its over 53-organization coalition in 2021 vowing to remove lead paint-based hazards from homes and ensuring all children are screened for lead poisoning as part of a comprehensive wellness exam. Learn more at <https://paleadfree.org/>.

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*LFPP is part of ThrivingPA.com, a non-partisan, statewide campaign that seeks to improve the quality of and increase equitable access to a coordinated system of health supports, including access to comprehensive perinatal health services, children’s health insurance, nutrition supports and lead screening and abatement.*