



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Kate Philips  
[philips@parkerphilips.com](mailto:philips@parkerphilips.com)  
215.850.4647 mobile

**PA LEGISLATIVE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ANNOUNCE \$10  
MILLION INVESTMENT IN LEAD REMEDIATION**  
*Advances Fight to End Lead Paint Poisoning*

**Philadelphia, PA (April 14, 2022)** – The Pennsylvania Legislative Democratic Caucus announced a \$10 million investment of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to create a lead remediation fund for low-income homeowners and landlords to remove lead paint-based hazards from homes at press conference at Temple Health today.

“Nearly [10,000 children were poisoned by lead](#) in Pennsylvania in 2018,” said PA State Representative Elizabeth Fiedler. “Exposure to lead can cause behavior problems, hearing issues and anemia in children. Exposure during pregnancy can lead to premature birth. We need to allocate these ARP funds to protect the health of our families now, and the future of our city and Commonwealth.”

Still to this day, lead poisoning robs nearly 8,000 Pennsylvania children of a fully healthy future by causing irreversible brain damage — and there are not nearly enough resources to help suffering families facing the challenges that come with a diagnosis of lead paint poisoning.

“The House Democrats deserve recognition for investing in an ongoing crisis affecting nearly 8,000 Pennsylvania children every year,” said Saumya Arragari, Public Health Nurse Home Visitor for Nurse Family Partnership. “Imagine the fear a family faces knowing their child has been poisoned for life from lead paint that should have been remediated decades ago — I’ve seen that fear, and it is a devastating reckoning.”

“This funding will save some families from this 100% preventable poisoning, but we at the Lead-Free Promise Project know that it is a down payment on the larger problem and will continue to fight until it is eliminated and all kids at ages one and two are screened for lead paint poisoning.”

Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Health adopted the CDC’s new blood level reference value of 3.5 mcg/dl down from 5mcg/dl as recommended by the Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee (LEPAC), and suspect this change will likely double the amount of children who will need intervention services and lead remediation services. This investment is a step in the right direction.

LFPP launched its coalition in 2021 – which has ballooned to included 53 organizations statewide — committed to leading the charge to fund programs to remove lead paint-based hazards from homes and ensuring all children are screened for lead poisoning as part of a comprehensive wellness exam.

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.

###