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SPEAKER MCCLINTON PRESENTS HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN DELAWARE COUNTY LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

Advances the fight to end lead paint poisoning and supports the Lead-Free Promise Project's goals

MEDIA, PA (May 12, 2023) — Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Joanna McClinton, in partnership with the Lead-Free Promise Project, the Delaware County Lead Prevention Coalition, and Delaware County Council announced today the allocation of \$150,000 dollars — dispersed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health — to the Office of Housing and Community Development Lead Hazard Reduction Program. This investment will go directly toward the continuation of vital lead remediation efforts.

“Every year, nearly 250 kids in Delaware County are diagnosed with lead poisoning — what’s worse is that these poisonings are preventable,” said Speaker Joanna McClinton, D-Phila/Delaware. “I’m so proud that we were able to secure this funding to continue remediation efforts that will improve the lives of our children, families, and communities.”

More than four decades after lead paint was banned in the United States, lead poisoning still robs nearly 8,000 Pennsylvania children of their future by causing irreversible brain damage — and there are not nearly enough resources to help suffering families.

“The best way to protect children from lead poisoning is by removing lead from the home,” said Delaware County Chair Dr. Monica Taylor. “This new funding will allow Delaware County to immediately expand our ongoing remediation efforts.”

“Our Pennsylvania children are still being lead paint poisoned every year — robbing them of their intellect causing brain damage and behavioral and learning problems,” said Rosemarie Halt, Interim Health Policy Director at Children First on behalf of the Lead-Free Promise Project. “By investing in lead paint remediation now, we are not only keeping our kids healthy, but will also save Pennsylvania money in the long-term and reap the benefits.

“We thank the Speaker for her leadership and look forward to continuing our work with the General Assembly to finally get the lead out of all Pennsylvania homes and stop poisoning our children.”

Recently, [East Lansdowne](#) and the [City of Chester](#) passed lead safety ordinances, a step in the right direction toward the goal of zero poisoned children in Delaware County. Investments at the county level — like the one announced today — work to move the needle in the continued effort to, once and for all, combat this 100% preventable issue.

The Lead-Free Promise Project is asking for \$12 million in the 2023–24 PA State Budget to provide low-income homeowners and landlords with the resources to help remove lead paint-based hazards in older properties and strengthen and develop the workforce of lead remediators to better tackle the lead crisis.

LFPP launched its over 60-organization coalition in 2020 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/>.

LFPP is part of ThrivingPA.org, 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.

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