



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Legislative Caucus

2018 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus

*Erie, Pennsylvania
September 21-22, 2018*

Resolution on Reducing Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

- WHEREAS,** lead is a toxic substance that serves no beneficial purpose in the human body, causes lifelong adverse health effects and developmental delays, and is not safe at *any* level of exposure; and
- WHEREAS,** exposure to lead can damage the brain, red blood cells, and kidneys, with studies consistently demonstrating the harmful effects of lead exposure on children, including impaired cognitive function, decreased academic performance, decreased attention, and increased impulsivity and hyperactivity; and
- WHEREAS,** the impacts of exposure on pregnant women include, miscarriage, a higher incidence of low birth weight babies, and increased infant mortality; and
- WHEREAS,** the harmful effects of lead exposure on individuals produces societal costs such as reduced lifetime earnings; increased health care costs; increased costs for special education, learning interventions for lower IQ, and attention issues; and potential increases in criminal behavior; and
- WHEREAS,** lead is particularly dangerous to children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adult bodies do, and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead; and
- WHEREAS,** the greatest risk from lead is to infants, young children, and pregnant women, with infants who drink formula prepared with lead-contaminated water being at higher risk because of the large amount of water they drink relative to their body size; and



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WHEREAS, the states and provinces rightfully consider exposure to lead in paint and soil to be a public health issue, and therefore have established policies and programs that are making tangible albeit limited progress to remedy this widespread problem; and

WHEREAS, the harmful health effects of exposure to lead are similar regardless of whether the source of the contamination is paint, soil, or drinking water; and

WHEREAS, exposure to lead in drinking water is a public health issue with the potential to affect *all* people, but most commonly afflicts children already disadvantaged by low socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, remedying the problem of lead in drinking water requires a holistic approach that begins with a clear understanding of the scope of the problem, including the disproportionate impacts on children and adults at greatest risk; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the members of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC) do hereby commit to collaborate regionally on policy measures in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces to reduce lead in drinking water in order to reduce the population's exposure to and contamination from lead; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the specific measures the states and provinces will seek to implement will be delineated in a GLLC action plan for 2019-2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the GLLC will assess progress toward this regional goal in 2020 for the purpose of identifying opportunities for continued collaboration in 2021-2022 to further reduce the population's exposure to lead in drinking water.

Adopted on September 22, 2018.