

2012 -- H 8148

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO RESTORE FUNDING
FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL'S HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD
POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Introduced By: Representative Arthur Handy

Date Introduced: May 09, 2012

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

1 WHEREAS, In the FY12 budget recently approved by Congress, the Centers for Disease
2 Control's (CDC) Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program suffered a devastating
3 94 percent cut. Without immediate intervention to reallocate the funding necessary to save this
4 program, nearly half a million children nationwide may fail to receive the critical preventative
5 services they need in the coming weeks and months; and

6 WHEREAS, Lead poisoning is a reality for too many children in Rhode Island. In 2011,
7 two hundred children were newly diagnosed with lead poisoning in the Ocean State; and

8 WHEREAS, The annual incidence rate of lead poisoning in Rhode Island has declined
9 significantly over the past decade from 5.8 percent of children screened in 2001, to just 0.8
10 percent of children screened in 2011. This significant progress testifies to the effectiveness of
11 Rhode Island's response to lead poisoning and provides evidence that supports continued funding
12 for a program that works. Rhode Island needs to continue to focus on primary prevention and
13 lead-safe housing to protect children from lead poisoning and respond to lower blood lead levels;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, If, as expected, the Centers for Disease Control lowers the threshold for
16 childhood lead poisoning from the current rate of 10 mcg/dL to 5 mcg/dL, the number of new
17 cases of lead poisoning in Rhode Island in 2011 would increase from 200 to 1,279; and

18 WHEREAS, In the fight against lead poisoning, the Centers for Disease Control's
19 Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is on the front line. CDC-funded health

1 officials in thirty-five states around the country get the call when kids in their communities are
2 lead poisoned and make sure these children receive immediate help; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies show that serious poisoning cases have been under-counted.
4 Funding for intervention should increase, not disappear; and

5 WHEREAS, This is a critical opportunity to take a stand on two major issues confronting
6 policy-makers: environmental justice and education. Low-income families and children of color
7 continue to suffer a disproportionate impact from lead poisoning. In some areas of the country,
8 African-American and Latino children are eight to nine times more likely to enter school with a
9 history of lead poisoning; and

10 WHEREAS, Studies show that educating a child with lead poisoning costs an extra
11 \$38,000, on average. Additionally, children poisoned by lead are seven times more likely to drop
12 out of school and six times more likely to end up in the juvenile justice system. If even half of the
13 children with lead poisoning access the educational services they need and deserve, tax payers
14 would save \$10 billion; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
16 Providence Plantations hereby urges President Barack Obama to restore funding to the CDC's
17 Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The stakes are simply too high for
18 Rhode Island's children; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, the United States
21 Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and the Rhode Island
22 Congressional Delegation.

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