



CONFERENCE OF BIG 5 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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October 8, 2008

Honorable Terryl Brown Clemons
Counsel to the Governor
State Capitol, Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

RE: A.6399-C

Dear Ms. Clemons:

On behalf of the Conference of Big 5 School Districts, representing the city school districts of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers, I am writing to urge your approval of A.6399-C, the childhood lead poisoning primary prevention and safe housing act.

This measure would address the enormous childhood lead poisoning problem in all of our State's urban centers outside of New York City where some of the nation's highest lead poisoning rates exist. Failure to remove the lead risk for young children may result in long-term cognitive issues requiring special education and related services. The proposed legislation would target high-risk areas and ensure that primary prevention plans are put in place. In addition, tax credits and additional federal resources would be provided to encourage remediation by property owners.

It is imperative that more be done to protect all of the children in New York State from the dangers of lead exposure. We urge the Governor's approval of A.6399-C.

Sincerely,

Georgia M. Ascitutto