

The JustGreen Partnership

Working for Environmental Health and Justice for New York's People and Communities

Alliance @ IBM
Arbor Hill Env. Justice Corp.
Assoc. of Comparative & Env.
Toxicology Students
Cancer Resource Center of the
Finger Lakes
Capital Region Action Against
Breast Cancer
Citizens For A Clean Env't.
Clean New York
Clean Production Action
Coalition to End Lead Poisoning
Communication Workers of
America Local 1701
Community Action Organization
– Center for Env. Justice
Community Health & Env.
Coalition of Long Island
Earthjustice
**Empire State Consumer
Project**
Environmental Health Fund
**Environmental Justice Action
Group of WNY**
For a Better Bronx
Garrison Institute
Great Lakes United
Great Neck Breast Cancer
Coalition
Healthy Schools Network
**Huntington Breast Cancer
Action Coalition**
Institute for Health & the
Environment at SUNYA
Learning Disabilities Assn of
NYS and local chapters:
Central New York
*Life & Learning Services of
Rochester*
New York City
Southern Tier
Western New York
*Wildwood Programs (Capital
District)*
Natural Resources Defense
Council
NYC Env. Justice Alliance
NYPIRG
NYS League of Consvtn. Voters
NYS Nurses Association
Parents Against Lindane
Prevention is the Cure
Rochesterians Against the
Misuse of Pesticides
Sierra Club
United Steelworkers Dist. 4
WEACT for Env. Justice
W. Haywood Burns Env.
Education Center
**Bold indicates Steering
Committee Members**

**Individuals (affiliation for
identification only)**
Katrina Korfmacher, PhD Env.
Health Science Ctr - U of R
Med Ctr
Joseph Gardella, PhD
Chem. Prof. SUNY Buffalo
Ward Stone, Wildlife Pathologist,
NYS DEC

Terryl Brown Clemons, Esq
Acting Counsel
Executive Chamber, Second Floor
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

October 9, 2008

Dear Ms. Clemons:

We urge the Governor to approve the Gantt-Robach (A.6399-C/S.6350-B) Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention and Safe Housing Act. This legislation will move New York to prevent, not respond to, lead poisoning.

Each year some 5,000 of New York's children are identified as lead poisoned, about half outside New York City. Many more cases remain undetected since not all children are screened as required by law. Current law requires local health departments to look for lead sources only *after a child is identified as lead poisoned through a blood test.*

This legislation will require the state to develop childhood lead poisoning prevention plans for the top 30 lead "hot spots", identify lead sources in these communities and require elimination of lead hazards **before** children are poisoned. The bill would also improve children's lead screening and reporting and provide modest tax credits to help low income property owners eliminate lead hazards. During tough budget times, the bill **will not add financial burdens to local governments and will allow the state to access federal HUD grants for the first time, to offset implementation costs while reducing health care, special education, juvenile and criminal justice costs.**

Since New York began regularly testing young children in the early 1990s, over 200,000 children have been identified as lead poisoned. The vast majority of lead poisoned children not in New York City live in "pockets" in Buffalo, Rochester, Albany, Amsterdam, Schenectady, Newburgh, Yonkers, Syracuse, and Utica. Overwhelmingly these children are poor and African American or Latino.

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention and Safe Housing Act uses Department of Health data mapping and builds upon current pilot programs. When fully implemented, this legislation will prevent tens of thousands of New York's most vulnerable children from life-long damage caused by lead poisoning.

We need not inspect all New York housing. We know how to cost-effectively identify and control lead hazards. But we must act decisively to preserve our State's most precious, yet vulnerable, assets — the children of New York State.

We urge the Governor to sign Gantt-Robach (A.6399-C/S.6350-B) – the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention & Safe Housing Act – into law.

Sincerely,
Kathleen A. Curtis, on behalf of
the JustGreen Partnership