



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Matthew J. Driscoll, Mayor

September 18, 2008

Honorable David Paterson  
Governor, New York State  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I urge you to approve the Gnat-Robach (A.6399-C/S.6350-B) Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention and Safe Housing Act, which I understand is now before you for action. Each year close to 5,000 children are identified as lead poisoned in New York State, with the City of Syracuse containing three of the highest targeted lead poisoned zip codes in the state.

The Gnat-Robach legislation will result in the development of a childhood lead poisoning prevention plan for the State's top 30 lead "hot spots," the identification of the sources of lead in these communities and the removal of the lead hazards prior to the children becoming poisoned. The bill would also provide for increased blood lead level screening and provide partial tax credits to property owners who eliminate lead hazards.

Under this legislation, the State would reimburse localities for the costs of implementing the local lead poisoning prevention plans. This provision is essential as municipalities like the City of Syracuse do not have the resources to take on any additional unfunded mandates, however beneficial a program may be. The Childhood Lead Poisoning and Primary Prevention and Safe Housing Act will target the city's most vulnerable population – our children – prior to becoming damaged for life from lead poisoning.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Matthew Driscoll  
Mayor



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Driscoll".

Matthew Driscoll  
Mayor