



United Way  
of New York State

*Mission*

To strengthen the capacity of United Ways to be leaders  
in achieving results that improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

September 23, 2008

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Honorable David Paterson, Governor  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol, Room 221  
Albany, New York 12224

Re: A6399C-Gantt, S6350B-Robach

Dear Governor Paterson:

We urge you to sign into law this legislation which will prevent thousands of New York's children from being lead poisoned each year. This bill was passed by the Legislature with strong bipartisan support.

This legislation would:

- ✚ Provide a statutory framework for a statewide prevention plan.
- ✚ Focus prevention efforts to where they are most needed – 30 lead “hot spots” identified from your Department of Health’s data.
- ✚ Reduce the state’s trigger level for intervention when a child is lead poisoned from 20 micrograms per deciliter to the CDC’s recommended level of 10.
- ✚ Provide for tax credits and low interest loans for property owners and landlords to reimburse them for lead hazard removal.
- ✚ Increase public awareness of how many children are tested for lead at ages 1, 2 and 6, as currently required by state law.

Be assured that:

- ✚ Childhood lead poisoning is 100% preventable.
- ✚ The negative effects of childhood lead poisoning on a child’s health and IQ are irreversible, according to the Medical Society of the State of New York and the New England Journal of Medicine.

In addition this bill:

- ✚ Offers the most likely approach to meet the goal we know you share, of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in New York State.
- ✚ Represents the most cost effective and fiscally conservative approach – funding remediation of lead hazards is capped and tied to income of landlord/property owner.
- ✚ Builds on existing DOH work with lead prevention pilots, and on current DOH funding.
- ✚ Makes NYS eligible for the first time, for HUD funding for two types of lead hazard control grants.

Please sign this bill into law and make its implementation one of your top priorities.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Hager  
President

c: Lisa Ullman, Assistant Counsel to the Governor