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August 12, 2019

Governor Tony Evers
115 East, State Capitol
Madison WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers:

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is writing to support your recent executive order directing the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to name a “lead czar” who is charged with working across multiple state agencies to ensure a robust and comprehensive response to lead poisoning across the state.

Lead poisoning robs children of their future potential and our communities of the talents and skills they could bring. It affects people living in old housing stock, both urban and rural, and is particularly devastating for those living in poverty.

The executive order raises awareness of the hazards of lead exposure. It takes a multi-pronged approach that addresses staffing and the resources necessary to accelerate prevention, treatment, abatement, and detection of lead poisoning hazards. Your order supports stand-alone legislation to use bonding authority - \$40 million in loans to private property owners - to help pay to replace lead service lines. And, it will optimize the lead-abatement use of funds currently budgeted for improving water quality.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin appreciates your action to protect residents of Wisconsin by making it a priority to enable and coordinate the removal of lead hazards, the allocation of resources, and the testing and treatment of those affected.

Thank you for signing Executive Order 36 to name a “lead czar.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin L. Grunze". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Erin L Grunze
Executive Director