



CHRIS TAYLOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

July 28, 2016

Secretary Tom Engels
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53703-3445

Dear Secretary Engels:

Although I appreciate the Department's response to my letter regarding childhood lead poisoning in Wisconsin, I find it unacceptable. It is not enough to simply consider the issue for the last five years without taking any action.

In fact, Wisconsin statute § 254.156 requires DHS to modify the definition of "lead poisoning or lead exposure" whenever the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changes their threshold. I have enclosed a Legislative Council memo that reiterates this fact.

I recognize that lowering the standard for childhood lead poisoning has a corresponding monetary effect. However, according to DHS' own calculations, childhood lead poisoning is costing Wisconsin *billions* of dollars. In 2010, DHS estimated that if no children aged zero to six were exposed to lead, "a total of \$28 billion in costs and earnings would be saved."

Therefore, I ask that you factor in the cost of lowering the threshold at which Wisconsin considers children to be lead poisoned to bring in in line with the CDC's recommendations when you submit your 2017-19 budget request. In the meantime, is DHS going to comply with Wisconsin law and adopt the CDC lead poisoning standard that you are statutorily directed to?

Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Representative Chris Taylor
76th Assembly District