



The League of Women Voters of New York State
62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207
Phone: 518-465-4162 Fax: 518-465-0812
www.lwvny.org E-Mail: lwvny@lwvny.org

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of New York State*

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF: **S.6350/Robach**

TO: Senate Health Committee
DATE: April 9, 2008

***Subject:** An act to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the childhood lead poisoning primary prevention and safe housing act; establishes the childhood lead poisoning primary prevention and safe housing fund; authorizes a corporate tax credit for lead hazard reduction activities.*

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Safe Housing Act, as referenced above.

The League of Women Voters of New York State has long supported primary preventive care as the best option in preventing long term debilitating illnesses. This legislation would accelerate the elimination of lead poisoning in children and thus would eliminate costly remedial long term health care for these children. Relying mainly on secondary prevention is no longer an acceptable option.

This legislation would target 30 communities within the state, outside New York City, that have the greatest number of cases of lead poisoning. The primary prevention plans would be developed to conduct housing inspections, public education and outreach activities. The bill would allow eligible property owners to get tax credits for reducing lead hazards and thus providing incentives for property owners to remove lead paint hazards in their homes. It will establish a worker certification and training program and it would lower the lead threshold in children's blood that triggers interventions by the Health Department so that these children could be treated earlier.

Currently, the Department of Health concentrates on secondary prevention, focusing on intervention after a child is found to have an elevated blood level. At that point, the damage is done and cannot be reversed. This legislation promotes primary prevention, which means getting the lead out of the house before it gets into the child. Lead poisoning of children persists as one of the most prevalent and preventable environmental diseases in New York. Prevention is the only effective way to protect children from irreversible damage.

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of S.6350.