

American
Academy of
Pediatrics



OFFICERS

President

Robert W. Zavoski, M.D.
Hartford, CT

President-Elect

Ronald Angoff, M.D.
New Haven, CT

Treasurer

Leo J. DiStefano, M.D.
West Hartford, CT

Secretary

Sandra Carbonari, M.D.
Waterbury, CT

Immediate Past President

Jeanne M. Marconi, M.D.
Norwalk, CT

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Douglas Idelson, M.D.
New Haven, CT

Carol Leicher, M.D.
Hartford, CT

Cliff O'Callahan, M.D.
Middletown, CT

James E. O'Connor, M.D.
Cheshire, CT

Leonard I. Banco, M.D.
Hartford, CT

Elsa L. Stone, M.D.
North Haven, CT

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS-LOBBYIST

Judith A. Blei, J.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jillian G. Wood

HEZEKIAH BEARDSLEY CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

104 HUNGERFORD STREET • HARTFORD, CT 06106 • TEL. (860) 525-9738 • FAX (860) 727-9863

Public Health Committee Connecticut General Assembly

Good afternoon, my name is Hilda Slivka, M.D., Director of the Lead Clinic at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Co-director of the Hartford Regional Lead Treatment Center, and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. As a general pediatrician who has also been medically treating children with lead poisoning for 15 years, and as a representative of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am here to offer support to components of Senate Bill No. 1340, An Act Concerning A Comprehensive Plan to Eradicate Childhood Poisoning.

The American Academy of Pediatrics enthusiastically supports all public measures to eradicate lead poisoning in children. This translates to identifying and intervening when any lead hazards are present. Presently, these hazards can only be identified by screening children when their lead level peaks and they are most susceptible to lead's deleterious effects. The adverse effects of lead may not be reversible, even with chelation therapy. Therefore it is crucial to identify any child exposed to lead before they are affected. Children should be tested at 1 and 2 years of age for lead poisoning. The test should also be performed in any child up to the age of 6 who has not had a previous lead screening test performed.

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics endorses any legislation that would integrate lead screening programs with public financial assistance for remediation and removal of lead from residential properties. Without this commitment, lead poisoning cannot be eradicated. The most common source of lead exposure for children is lead paint and the contaminated dust and soil it generates. Prevention of lead poisoning is the approach that should be adopted by the State of Connecticut. If the housing issue is not addressed, we as a state will continue to incur the cost of the educational, intellectual and social costs to our children and their future. Thank you for your attention.