

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 22, 2015

The Honorable Julián Castro
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20410

Re: Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant

Dear Secretary Castro,

We write in strong support of the application submitted by the City of Waterbury for funding from HUD's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control grant program. This funding will allow for abatement of lead in Waterbury housing units to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning.

Statistics from the City of Waterbury demonstrate the extreme needs of the community. Within the State of Connecticut, Waterbury has:

- the second highest rate of unemployment (9.5% as of April 2015);
- the lowest rate of rental vacancy (2%);
- 71% of households living on incomes of less than 50% of the area median;
- the second highest rate of emergency department visits for asthma;
- the second highest rate of confirmed cases of blood lead levels ≥ 5 ug/dL in children under six years old;
- the third highest incidence rate of children with newly confirmed blood lead levels ≥ 5 ug/dL.

If awarded, the funding will allow the city to continue its outreach, education, and treatment efforts. To date, the grants received by the City of Waterbury have facilitated the establishment of lead-safe housing units for 318 occupants, 23% of which were children younger than six years old, resulting in a significant reduction in the incidence of childhood lead poisoning. The city has also conducted 173 Healthy Homes assessments, facilitated 11 skill-training workshops, and created six jobs. Additional funding will provide Waterbury with the opportunity to continue its highly successful efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning and foster healthy communities.

We fully support the City of Waterbury's application and ask for your serious consideration of this worthy proposal.

Sincerely,



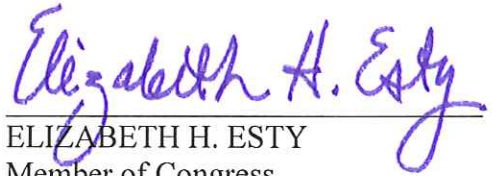
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United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate



ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress