



February 3, 2016

The Honorable Gary Peters
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Peters and Stabenow,

On behalf of the 120,900 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, I write to share our support for your amendment the *Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015* (S. 2012) to increase access to safe water for the residents of Flint, Michigan and address the health needs of those exposed to lead.

Access to safe water is essential for human health and quality of life. We appreciate amendment's authorization of emergency funding to repair the city's badly damaged infrastructure. If approved, this provision will allow the government and residents to focus on restoring a water supply that is healthful and lead-free. Also, the amendment will direct the federal government to notify residents and public health departments of elevated lead levels when there is evidence of contamination. Finally, we commend you for including the establishment of a Center of Excellence on Lead Exposure to research and address the immediate and long-term health needs of lead-exposed children and adults. Lead is a dangerous neurotoxin that can cause severe and irreversible mental and physical impairments, especially in children. Adults exposed to lead also experience neurological, renal, and other physiological challenges. According to the World Health Organization, there is no safe exposure level for lead. Ultimately, the best solution for lead poisoning is *primary* prevention.

We commend your leadership and appreciate the opportunity to support the amendment. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Robert Wergin, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

RW/scc

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