



Tri-Valley

Opportunity Council, Inc.

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Jason Carlson
Chief Executive Officer

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Stephanie Vonesh
Chair of the Board

3/23/2023

Health and Finance Committee Chair: Representative Tina Liebling
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Health and Human Services Committee Chair: Senator Melissa Wiklund
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Please support HF 347/SF 579 and HF2930/SF2995

Dear Representative Tina Liebling and Senator Melissa Wiklund,

I am writing to you as a representative of Tri-Valley Opportunity Council. We serve low income children and migrant and seasonal children in our Head Start programs throughout much of Minnesota. I encourage you to support the lead testing proposals for schools and child care centers.

As a Head Start agency, we are required to ensure our facilities are safe for children, and at a minimum, free from pollutants, hazards and toxins that are accessible to children and could endanger children's safety. Lead is a hazard which can create learning problems, behavioral problems and even death. Having lead testing in water is important for child care programs that serve the youngest, most vulnerable children. Most child care programs operate on a tight budget, and unexpected costs are not able to be paid. If there isn't funding for testing and remediation, then the programs won't complete the testing, causing children to possibly be exposed to hazardous lead.

We all know that children are our future. Let's help support their best development by providing funding for testing for lead, and having funds for remediation if there are high lead test results.

Sincerely,

Jason Carlson
Chief Executive Officer