



## **Action Alert**

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### **SUPPORT HB 236 – Your Action Needed Rapidly** 5 March 2009

Reservoir Hill Improvement Council has been a consistent supporter of the lead reduction measures in Maryland that have contributed greatly to dramatically lowering childhood lead poisoning over the last ten years, and many Reservoir Hill residents have contributed letters and their voices at hearings over the years to these campaigns led by the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning. House Bill 236 gives us an opportunity to build on these successes, and we ask for your timely support.

Toxic leaded dust in older housing has poisoned generations of children for far too long. An invisible hazard, toxic leaded dust is a primary source of childhood lead poisoning. Maryland has the opportunity to take an important step to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by ensuring that rental properties are tested for the presence of lead containing dust prior to rental.

In an effort to prevent childhood lead poisoning in pre-1950 rental units, it is critical to determine the potential lead hazards that exist before a tenant moves into the rental unit. Visual inspections alone, currently allowed by Maryland law, fail to assess dangerous lead dust exposure. The most effective and reliable method to determine potential exposure to lead hazards is the use of dust testing. Dust testing provides information to the property owner and tenant about potential lead dust hazards which are invisible to the naked eye, but which may poison a young child.

**HB236** requires an owner of an affected rental property to satisfy both full and modified reduction standards by passing a lead dust test pursuant to the Maryland Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Law. The full text of the bill is available online at: <http://mlis.state.md.us/2009rs/bills/hb/hb0236f.pdf>

A large majority of the reputable and experienced property owners or property managers will only perform dust tests because the tests are considered more reliable. 77% of Maryland Rental Property Owners required to comply with the risk reduction standards already use the lead dust testing method of inspection. 73% of Baltimore City Rental Property Owners required to comply with the risk reduction standards already opt to do lead dust clearance testing. HB 236 will ensure that those property owners and managers who do not already perform lead dust testing reach the level of compliance of the majority that currently do so.

**Please call today and urge your representatives in the Maryland General Assembly to pass this critical legislation.** Please notify RHIC by email or phone (410.225.7547, [rgwynallen@reservoirhill.net](mailto:rgwynallen@reservoirhill.net)) of your action so we can continue to have a good count of Reservoir Hill participation.

Together we will deliver on the promise of ending the entirely preventable problem of lead poisoning. We hope that you will add your voice to those taking action to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a lead-safe and Healthy Home.

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY!**

Governor Martin O'Malley  
[governor@gov.state.md.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.md.us) (410) 974-3901  
Senate President Thomas "Mike" Miller  
[thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us](mailto:thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us) (410) 841-3700  
House Speaker Michael Busch  
[michael.busch@house.state.md.us](mailto:michael.busch@house.state.md.us) (410) 841-3800

HB 236 is assigned to the Environment Matters Committee  
Please contact the Committee Chair Maggie McIntosh  
Delegate Maggie McIntosh, 410-841-3990, [maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us](mailto:maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us)

**DISTRICT 40 - Central/West Baltimore -Charles Village, Pimlico, Reservoir Hill**  
Sen. Catherine E. Pugh (D) (410) 841-3656  
[catherine.pugh@senate.state.md.us](mailto:catherine.pugh@senate.state.md.us)  
Del. Frank M. Conaway, Jr. (D) (410) 841-3189  
[frank.conaway@house.state.md.us](mailto:frank.conaway@house.state.md.us)

Del. Barbara A. Robinson (D) (410) 841-3520  
[barbara.robinson@house.state.md.us](mailto:barbara.robinson@house.state.md.us)  
Del. Shawn Z. Tarrant (D) (410) 841-3545  
[shawn.tarrant@house.state.md.us](mailto:shawn.tarrant@house.state.md.us)

**DISTRICT 41 - North/West Baltimore/ Mt. Washington, Edmondson Village, Forest Park**  
Sen. Lisa A. Gladden (D) (410) 841-3697  
[lisa.gladden@senate.state.md.us](mailto:lisa.gladden@senate.state.md.us)  
Del. Jill P. Carter (D) (410) 841-3283  
[jill.carter@house.state.md.us](mailto:jill.carter@house.state.md.us)

Del. Nathaniel T. Oaks (D) (410) 841-3283  
[nathaniel.oaks@house.state.md.us](mailto:nathaniel.oaks@house.state.md.us)  
Del. Samuel I. Rosenberg (D) (410) 841-3297  
[samuel.rosenberg@house.state.md.us](mailto:samuel.rosenberg@house.state.md.us)

**DISTRICT 43- North/Central Baltimore-Mostly between Charles St and Harford Rd –Waverly, Gilford, Homeland**

Sen. Joan Carter Conway (D) (410) 841-3145  
[joan.carter.conway@senate.state.md.us](mailto:joan.carter.conway@senate.state.md.us)  
Del. Curtis S. (Curt) Anderson (D) (410) 841-3291  
[curt.anderson@house.state.md.us](mailto:curt.anderson@house.state.md.us)

Del. Ann Marie Doory (D) (410) 841-3476  
[annmarie.doory@house.state.md.us](mailto:annmarie.doory@house.state.md.us)  
Del. Maggie McIntosh (D) (410) 841-3990  
[maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us](mailto:maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us)

**DISTRICT 44- Central/Southwest Baltimore, Violetville, Upton, Mt. Vernon, Hopkins Hospital Area**  
Sen. Verna L. Jones (D) (410) 841-3612  
[verna.jones@senate.state.md.us](mailto:verna.jones@senate.state.md.us)  
Del. Keith E. Haynes (D) (410) 841-3801  
[keith.haynes@house.state.md.us](mailto:keith.haynes@house.state.md.us)

Del. Ruth M. Kirk (D) (410) 841-3802  
[ruth.kirk@house.state.md.us](mailto:ruth.kirk@house.state.md.us)  
Del. Melvin Stukes (D) (410) 841-3544  
[melvin.stukes@house.state.md.us](mailto:melvin.stukes@house.state.md.us)

**DISTRICT 45**- Central/East Baltimore Gardenville, Cedonia, Hamilton, Lauraville

Sen. Nathaniel J. McFadden (D)

(410) 841-3165

[nathaniel.mcfadden@senate.state.md.us](mailto:nathaniel.mcfadden@senate.state.md.us)

Del. Talmadge Branch (D)

(410) 841-3398

[talmadge.branch@house.state.md.us](mailto:talmadge.branch@house.state.md.us)

Del. Cheryl D. Glenn (D)

(410) 841-3257

[cheryl.glenn@house.state.md.us](mailto:cheryl.glenn@house.state.md.us)

Del. Hattie N. Harrison (D)

(410) 841-3486

[hattie.harrison@house.state.md.us](mailto:hattie.harrison@house.state.md.us)

**DISTRICT 46** - South Baltimore, Highlandtown, O'Donnell Heights, Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Little Italy, Federal Hill,

Sen. George W. Della, Jr. (D)

(410) 841-3600

[george.della@senate.state.md.us](mailto:george.della@senate.state.md.us)

Del. Carolyn J. Krysiak (D)

(410) 841-3303

[carolyn.krysiak@house.state.md.us](mailto:carolyn.krysiak@house.state.md.us)

Del. Peter A. Hammen (D)

(410) 841-3772

[peter.hammen@house.state.md.us](mailto:peter.hammen@house.state.md.us)

Del. Brian K. McHale (D),

(410) 841-3319

[brian.mchale@house.state.md.us](mailto:brian.mchale@house.state.md.us)