

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2018

Mr. Matthew Ammon
Director
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Director Ammon:

I write to request an assessment of the City of Milwaukee's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to ensure compliance with federal requirements and guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition, I urge you to work with the city to improve implementation of previously awarded grant funding intended to eliminate lead hazards in homes and the devastating health consequences of lead poisoning on Milwaukee's children.

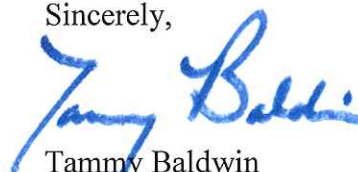
Lead poisoning is a threat to children and families and its harmful effects are well documented. The number of children in Milwaukee poisoned by lead is on the rise. About 25,000 children in the City of Milwaukee are tested for lead poisoning each year. On average, approximately 3,000 are found to have elevated levels of lead in their blood every year.

In January, the Milwaukee Health Department Commissioner resigned after reports indicated that the Department failed to appropriately follow up and provide services to families of children who tested positive for elevated levels of lead in their blood. These reports describe a number of troubling deficiencies with the Milwaukee's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. In response, the Milwaukee Health Department released an assessment of the city's lead program. The report describes serious problems, including failing performance scores from HUD connected to the Lead Hazard Reduction Grants awarded to the Milwaukee Health Department in 2014 and 2016. These grants fund lead hazmat abatement activities in homes as part of the city's lead abatement program.

I am concerned this federal grant could be at risk. Now is not the time to leave Milwaukee with fewer resources to address the seriousness of lead poisoning, which would create a new and unproductive challenge on top of other significant deficiencies in Milwaukee's lead program. I ask that you work with the city to establish and implement a corrective action plan to ensure the city spends the funds as intended—on lead abatement that will protect the well-being of Milwaukee's children.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator