



City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk
90 West Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215-9015
columbuscitycouncil.org

Legislation Text

File #: 0150X-2017, **Version:** 1

To oppose provisions added to Ohio House Bill 49, the main operating budget of the 132nd General Assembly, which restrict Columbus' ability to inspect and abate lead contamination in homes, and to encourage the Ohio Senate to remove these provisions

WHEREAS, an amendment was included in Ohio House Bill 49, as passed by the Ohio House of Representatives on May 2, 2017, which grants the Ohio Department of Health the sole authority to regulate the inspection, enforcement, and abatement of lead based paint in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, state policy currently limits inspection and abatement activity in a home until after lead poisoning has occurred, which, in combination with the budget provisions in question, will greatly restrict Columbus' ability to protect its residents through proactive action prior to a child being poisoned; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 24 million homes in the United States with elevated levels of lead contamination; more than four million of these homes have young children residing in them. Children living at or below the poverty line or who live in older housing are at the greatest risk; and

WHEREAS, approximately 310,000 children in the United States aged 1-5 have blood lead levels known to have harmful health impacts. Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and in severe cases, seizures, coma, and death. Lead poisoning often has no obvious symptoms and goes unrecognized, making proactive action even more important; and

WHEREAS, the effort to prevent lead poisoning in Ohio's children benefits from the coordination, collaboration, and combined contributions of local, state, federal, non-profit, and private partners; and

WHEREAS, restricting the ability of municipalities in Ohio to proactively inspect and abate lead contamination in their communities unnecessarily exposes children to the dangers of lead poisoning; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS: That this Council does hereby oppose provisions in Ohio House Bill 49 which limit the City of Columbus' ability to protect the wellbeing of its residents through proactive lead inspection and abatement programs and encourages the removal of these provisions by the Ohio Senate.

Furthermore, the Clerk of Council is instructed to transmit copies of this resolution to members of the Ohio Senate.