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Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee

In Support of

House Bill 1113

Environment - Dust-Lead Hazard Standards and Dust-Lead Clearance Levels

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed that the Federal dust-lead hazard standards (DLHS) and dust-lead clearance levels (DLCL) be lowered from 10 micrograms per square foot ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for floors and windowsills to any reportable level.

The EPA's proposal would reduce the DLHS for windowsills to any reportable level greater than zero in recognition of the fact that there is no level of lead in dust that has been found to be safe for children. It would also lower the DLCL for floors, windowsills, and window troughs to the lowest post-abatement dust-lead levels that the Agency believes can be reliably and effectively achieved.

To protect our children and Maryland residents from lead exposure, we should act in accordance with the EPA's proposal. Doing so would address health and environmental

concerns from over-burdened and underserved communities whose residents have significantly higher blood lead levels (BLLs) than other children.

I have been working with the Maryland Department of Environment on this bill, and we agree that within six months after the EPA adopts such a regulation, MDE shall also adopt the regulation. The department may seek additional time to adopt regulations if needed and if consented to by the relevant House and Senate committees. An amendment to this effect has been offered with my testimony.

For all these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE report for HB 1113.

February 28, 2024