



## SUPPORT FOR HB1067

### Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition – Phase Out

Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and E&T Committee Members:

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, with over 800 members in Maryland, is pleased to support HB1067, an important public health and safety bill.

To fully appreciate the long history of the usefulness and toxicity of lead, it's worth reviewing the Wikipedia entry:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead\\_poisoning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead_poisoning)

Long-time clinicians in Maryland, like us, have seen too many people damaged by lead. The bottom line is this. Lead poisoning must be prevented. Treatment after exposure is ineffective. While there are ways to reduce the lead level in humans, the damage, especially to the nervous system, is permanent: *“Effects of lead on the physiology of the kidneys and blood are generally reversible; its effects on the central nervous system are not. The brain is the organ most sensitive to lead exposure. While peripheral effects in adults often go away when lead exposure ceases, evidence suggests that most of lead's effects on a child's central nervous system are irreversible. Children with lead poisoning may thus have adverse health, cognitive, and behavioral effects that follow them into adulthood.”*

**To put it bluntly, the damage from lead makes people - especially children - less mentally capable and more volatile emotionally. That's a bad combination, and it lasts a lifetime.**

A friend who is a Veteran provided additional information based on his experience in the military and its management of lead. He shared that firing ranges were routinely cleaned to prevent lead exposure, adding that in 1985-

1986, the Pikesville Armory, for example, underwent a major lead abatement project.

HB1067 would reduce and eliminate lead exposure from food, mainly from venison and birds killed by lead shot. As the preamble of the bill states, this would not only protect people, but it would also be of benefit to waterfowl, deer, and other animals for whom lead is toxic.

Imagine 100+ years ago if lead had not been allowed in paint, how many cases could have been avoided. This is an identical situation. We don't want to be looking back in 10-20-30 years from now regretting that we had missed this opportunity to prevent serious illness.

HB1067 deserves your support.

Submitted by

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On behalf of CPSR

<https://www.chesapeakepsr.org>