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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

August 9, 2018

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary
U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Carson,

I write in support of the application submitted by the City of Utica for funding from the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The requested funding will be used to continue and expand the Lead-Free Mohawk Valley Coalition's efforts to reduce lead-based paint hazards in high-risk areas of the City of Utica.

Home to over 60,000 residents, the City of Utica has consistently had one of the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning in New York State. One of the main sources of exposure to lead hazards is found in the home, as an abundance of the City's housing stock was built before lead-based paint was banned in 1978. Given the serious physical and developmental consequences of even short-term exposure, the City of Utica has become a leading partner in the Lead-Free Mohawk Valley Coalition, which is a collaborative organization committed to reducing lead poisoning across Oneida County.

The requested funding will be used to support the Lead-Free Mohawk Valley Coalition's continued efforts to identify and eliminate lead-based paint hazards in pre-1978 housing, with a focus on high-risk units owned or rented by the City's most vulnerable residents. These targeted areas include the West Utica, Downtown, Cornhill, and Bleecker Street neighborhoods. By helping support additional efforts to increase testing and community awareness, this funding will help protect children in the City of Utica from lifelong illness and allow all members of the Mohawk Valley community to thrive.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Laura Driscoll at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator