

***Maryland Alliance for Children's Environmental Health
Maryland League of Conservation Voters***

**SUPPORT HB 1241
Maryland State and Children's Lead Poisoning Recovery Act**

House Judiciary Committee – March 5, 2008
Testimony of Terry J. Harris

Lead paint remains a terrible scourge on the health of Maryland children, and the continuing problem is a direct result of the sale and marketing of lead-based paint even after manufacturers knew of the dangers. Abating the toxic dangers the industry left behind has proven to be an enormous and expensive undertaking.

Maryland should demand the cleanup of this toxic residue, just as it requires other industries to clean up their toxic pollution. Lead paint poisoning remains the number one environmental health threat to children in this country. The fact that lead poisoning disproportionately affects minority and low income children makes it a terrible example of environmental injustice.

It is past time for the lead paint industry to clean up its toxic legacy and HB 1241 provides a necessary mechanism to define the industry's liability in Maryland. Lead paint manufacturers have recently been held responsible in Rhode Island for creating a public nuisance, and manufacturers are being challenged in courts and legislatures across the country. HB 1241 would update Maryland law to allow similar suits to go forward in Maryland. We urge a favorable report.

For more information, contact:
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