



UTAH LEAD COALITION

Every Child Tested, Every Future Secured

Dear Legislators,

This is a **letter of support for Joint Resolution 2 – Encouraging Action to Reduce the Number of Utah Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels sponsored by Senator Jani Iwamoto**. This legislation encourages medical providers who care for children, pregnant women, and women of child-bearing age, to become familiar with the recommended federal and state guidelines including:

- Medicaid lead screening and testing requirements
- Reporting requirements of blood lead test results to the state of Utah
- Risk exposure prevention
- Early interventions for children with elevated blood lead levels.

In addition, this resolution encourages the Environmental Epidemiology Program of the Utah Department of Health to collaborate with medical providers to promote these efforts.

There is no safe level of lead. Lead exposure damages all organ systems, but particularly vulnerable are the developing nervous systems of the young child and fetus leading to lower IQ scores, ADHD, aggression, and other behavior disorders. The most common source of lead is from paint in homes built before 1978 (58% of Utah homes). Other sources include water, soil, ammunition, home remedies, spices, toys, hobbies, and juices. Lead poisoning is also preventable.

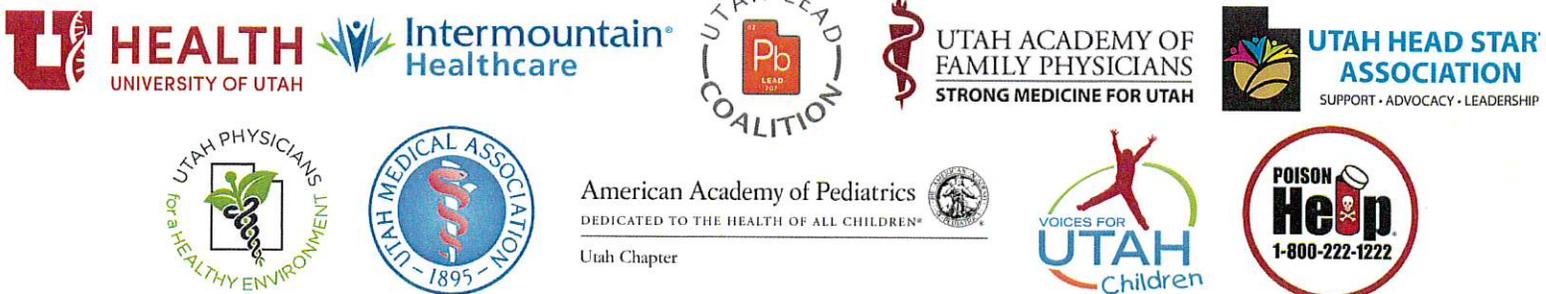
Blood testing is the only way to know if a child has been exposed. Unlike some states, Utah does not require blood lead testing of all children. While a federal mandate requires all children on Medicaid insurance to be tested at 1 and 2 years of age, Utah is far below the national average for Medicaid lead testing. In 2018, only 3.6% of Utah children 5 years and younger were tested and reported. More importantly, from 2016 to 2018, 2% of all Utah children tested had an elevated blood lead level, and two recent Salt Lake County studies covering 20 years of data, showed up to 2.8% of children affected.

These concerning statistics, the Sandy Water Crisis and Intermountain Healthcare's pledge to test all 1 and 2 years olds shows that Utah is not immune to the threat of lead poisoning. We need to enhance our efforts to protect our children.

Sincerely,

Claudia Fruin, MD, FAAP
Chair/Founder of the Utah Lead Coalition

The following organizations support Senate Joint Resolution 2 – Encouraging Action to Reduce the Number of Utah Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels.



support of resolution

BRIAN SHIOZAWA <BRIAN.SHIOZAWA@hsc.utah.edu>

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To: Jani Iwamoto <jiwamoto@le.utah.gov>

Sen. Iwamoto,

The University of Utah supports the principles of your resolution to protect Utah children from lead exposure. Thank you for sponsoring this resolution.

Brian E. Shiozawa M.D. FACEP
Associate Vice President for Health Policy
Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine

Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences

175 N. Medical Drive East Room 5213
Salt Lake City, UT 84132 | 801.581.4896

