

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

NYSAAP, District II, Chapters 1, 2 & 3



## **Memo of Support**

### **Lead Pipe Right to Know Act S.5512/A.6115**

NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 5,000 pediatricians across the state, strongly supports S.5512/A.6115, also known as the Lead Pipe Right to Know Act.

There is no safe level of lead exposure. Lead is a dangerous neurotoxin that causes harmful health effects on all living beings. Lead adversely affects pregnant people and children. Lead exposure can lead to miscarriages and stillbirths. In children, lead exposure causes cognitive and developmental delays, premature births, seizures, and hearing loss.

Drinking water is one pathway of lead exposure, and a common source of lead contamination comes from lead service lines (LSLs), which are the pipes that connect water mains to properties. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an estimated 494,000 of these dangerous pipes deliver water to homes and businesses in our state, causing contamination and disproportionately harming low-income communities and communities of color.

This legislation would make information about the number and location of lead service lines (LSLs) easily accessible to the public and decision-makers. Greater knowledge of the scale of this urgent problem would help secure and target the state and federal resources needed to put New York on a path to 100% LSL replacement.

We can't fix what we don't measure. It is critical for New York State to prioritize the identification and removal of lead service lines.

We must address this hazard effectively and comprehensively to avoid hardships experienced by communities such as a water crisis similar to that of Flint, MI or Newark, NJ. Thank you for your commitment to guaranteeing safe, clean, affordable drinking water for all New Yorkers. We look forward to working with you to enact S.5512/A.6115 this year.

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