

**Wisconsin Public Health Association
2007 Resolution of Support**

**Title: Support for the Creation of the Wisconsin Window Replacement Loan Fund
To Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning Hazards**

WHERE AS: In 2006, there were 2,150 children with lead poisoning living in Wisconsin. Since 2000, more than 19,000 children have been poisoned statewide.

WHERE AS: Most lead poisoned children live in homes built before 1950.

WHERE AS: Children usually get lead poisoned by normal hand to mouth activity in homes where lead-based paint chips and paint dust have fallen onto floors or windows.

WHERE AS: Even tiny amounts of lead from lead-based paint chips and dust ingested by a child can reduce IQ levels and increase the likelihood for developing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and violent behavior as adults.

WHERE AS: About 466,000 Wisconsin homes contain lead hazards. At any given time, about 80,000 of these unhealthy homes are occupied by families with vulnerable young children.

WHERE AS: Window surfaces are a major source of lead paint chips and dust in Wisconsin homes. Replacing windows in older homes with new efficient Energy Star windows reduces home heating bills AND improves our children's health.

WHERE AS: The rate of lead poisoning among Wisconsin children is nearly three (3) times higher than the national average. Children from low income families and from racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by lead poisoning.

WHERE AS: Wisconsin ranks sixth among the US states for the most children reported with lead poisoning. Lead poisoned children have been identified in every one of Wisconsin's 72 counties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Public Health Association supports the creation of the Wisconsin Window Replacement Loan Fund. The Fund will assist homeowner-occupants and rental property owners with low-interest financing for replacing lead paint-contaminated windows and window frames.

Explanation of Proposed Window Replacement Loan Funding Source - Fiscal Impact

Beginning July 1, 2007, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission will require utilities to collect, in their rates, an amount equal to a 1.2% fee of gross operating revenues for the purpose of providing energy-saving strategies and programs. It is anticipated that, in the first year of operation, this fund will collect between \$60 Million and \$80 Million.

The same mechanism used to collect these funds, it has been suggested, can be used to finance the Window Replacement Revolving Loan Fund, up to a one-time amount of \$10 to \$20 Million. This could be done in one of two ways: temporarily maintaining the size of the current customer access fee (which would raise \$14 - \$15 Million) or require utilities to collect an additional .25% of their gross operating revenues, above the current 1.2%. Once the revolving loan fund was financed, either fee would be reduced.

This would ensure that no funding would come from state General Purpose Revenue and will not by itself impact current priority state budget items. The proposed utility fee would not increase the expected state budget deficit.

References: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Lead-Safe Wisconsin www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/lead

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