

MICHIGAN BREAST CANCER COALITION

December 4, 2014

Dear Representative Price and Members, House Local Government Committee.

We are writing to urge you to oppose the revised SB313 (S-2) because of the negative impact on health that will result from a decrease in lead inspection of rental properties. We all know about the negative impact of lead toxicity on children's brain development, but lead is also a carcinogen. According to the American Cancer Society, the National Toxicology Program (which includes the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Food and Drug Administration) classifies lead and lead compounds as "reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens," based on limited evidence from studies in humans and sufficient evidence from studies in lab animals. Therefore, it is likely that lead contamination in our environment is a major health hazard to us all. As Chair of the committee, you have a responsibility and an opportunity to champion legislation that protects Michigan residents from toxins in the environment, and to oppose legislation that does not. And it is clear that SB313 does not protect Michigan residents.

SB313 would eliminate the requirement for local units of government to inspect rental properties unless the government elected to conduct those inspections. SB313 would allow, rather than require, an enforcing agency to maintain a registry of owners and premises regulated by the Act.

SB313 would allow local units of government, where the most recent inspection found no violations and there had been no change in ownership, to allow a minimum period of time between inspections of no less than 6 years (instead of no more than 6 years), and eliminates any requirement for local governments to ever inspect the homes again, except under emergency, if a complaint is made, or if there is a change in ownership. SB313 makes numerous other changes that will make it more difficult for local units of government to complete regular inspections and ensure the safety of rental properties.

Thank you for considering this request. As breast cancer survivors and advocates for an end to breast cancer, we welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter with you further.

Sincerely,

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