

Statement of the Honorable Debbie Dingell  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH MARKUP

September 14, 2022

H.R. 6737, the Flint Registry Reauthorization Act

Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

There is no safe level of exposure to lead. Period. Exposure to lead can have lifelong impacts on one's health - especially for children. That's why I worked alongside the Michigan delegation and my other bipartisan colleagues in Congress to address the Flint Water Crisis through the creation of the Flint Registry, a powerful tool that's helped residents minimize the impact of lead-contaminated drinking water on their health.

Since 2016, the Flint Registry has made a real difference for families and children recovering from the lasting effects of lead exposure not only from the man-made crisis in Flint, but in communities everywhere that continue to suffer from preventable lead exposure. To date, the registry has enrolled over 20,000 people and completed over 29,000 referrals to critical lead exposure-mitigating services like healthcare, nutrition, early education, lead elimination, and more.

The Flint Registry Reauthorization Act, which we are considering here today, would ensure this critical service continues to help the Flint community recover by authorizing \$5 million in annual funding for the next decade. Every member of the Michigan delegation—republican and democrat—was an original cosponsor of this bill. This strong bipartisan bill reflects the exact kind of meaningful policies this Committee is known for advancing.

The Flint water crisis should never have happened, and the people of Flint will be living with its impacts for the rest of their lives. We have an obligation to follow through on our promise to help the people of Flint recover long-term, and this funding is part of that promise.

Importantly, authorizing the Flint Registry for an additional 10 years will enable this program to support kids who were newborns during the crisis – the most vulnerable population to lead poisoning – through their 18 birthdays.

I would like to thank Chairman Pallone for advancing this bipartisan bill and I would like to thank the rest of my colleagues on this Committee for their commitment to protecting this important public health program for Flint and other communities facing lead exposure. As a member of the Michigan delegation, I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan and incredibly important legislation so we can get it reauthorized without delay.

Thank you and I yield back.