

NEW YORK STATE SENATE
Joint Senate Standing Committee on Health
Senate Standing Committee on Housing, Construction and Community Development

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention in New York State Oral Testimony

Good morning, Senators, Stakeholders and all New Yorkers,

My name is Tiesha Jones, unfortunately I know all too well what Elevated Blood Lead Levels can do to children. As a mother or as a parent you want to protect your child at all costs.

Unbeknownst, protecting my then four-year-old, from Lead Poisoning would be a challenge. I did not know what to do, whom to turn too or how it was going to affect my child. I was helpless. As a parent, you never want to feel helpless. No support from elders, community or health professionals.

Living in a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), there was the necessary compliance with State and Federal Guidelines. In which, families living in NYCHA with younger children, received literature about Lead Poison. The literature also included reassurance, there was no Lead based paint used in any dwellings after 1970's. It also stated, dwellings were free of lead, I believe them.

As, we all have experienced the battle with the worlds unseen enemy Covid, Lead Poison will definitively have affected more children than the past. Dwellings that were already in deplorable conditions, were not addressed during the Stay-at-Home Mandate. Parents were unskilled Doctors, Teachers, Maintenance workers etc. While the city's future was potentially at risk of being poisoned with lead, trying to protect their families from Covid. The Department of Education has failed these children, allowing them to fall through the cracks. Children with

Elevated Blood Lead Levels have Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.). The State New York Education System did not and has not taken this into Consideration.

I, stand before you as every parent in New York State, Looking for an innovative approach in Awareness and Prevention of Lead Poison. There are so many factors to include i.e., Department of Education, The Central Based System utilized in the Health Care System, Social Media Platforms and Environmental Justices. I ask that we all as New Yorkers take this into consideration as we move forward to eradicate Lead Poisoning with an Innovative Approach.

Thank you,