

# National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

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31 October 2022

Louisville Metro Council  
601 W. Jefferson St.  
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Members of the Louisville Metro Council,

As the Executive Director of the National Center for Healthy Housing, I am writing in support of legislation being introduced to require regular inspections of rental properties in the City of Louisville.

The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) is the preeminent national nonprofit dedicated to securing healthy homes for all. Since 1992, NCHH has served as a highly regarded and credible change agent, successfully integrating healthy housing advocacy, research, and capacity building under one roof to reduce health disparities nationwide.

Proactive rental inspections will reduce the incidence of lead poisoning and greatly improve the overall housing quality for residents living in rental properties in the City of Louisville. Cities across the country including Rochester, Syracuse, and Pittsburgh have identified proactive rental inspections as the key to preventing lead poisoning and addressing other health hazards in housing.

Lead poisoning is a serious and irreversible condition that damages the brain and alters the life trajectory of too many children in Louisville. At even very low levels of exposure in children, lead causes reduced IQ and attention span, hyperactivity, impaired growth, reading and learning disabilities, hearing loss, insomnia, and a range of other health, intellectual, and behavioral problems. Further, since lead hazards are more prevalent in older and substandard housing, lead poisoning is more common among low-income communities and vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by poor housing quality and conditions.

I urge you to take this important next step in the battle against lead poisoning and to ensure that rental housing provides a safe and stable environment for Louisville's children and families. A proactive program helps ensure that lead hazards are remediated before children are affected rather than waiting until the damage of lead poisoning has already been done.

In addition to protecting the health of the city's children living in rental housing, the legislation will also improve overall code compliance and ensure the preservation and provision of healthy, affordable housing.

I hope that you will support the passage of these ordinance amendments.

Sincerely,



Amanda Reddy  
Executive Director, National Center for Healthy Housing