



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CLEVELAND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION
PROPOSED BY CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING**

Cleveland, OH -- Today, Cleveland Lead Advocates For Safe Housing (CLASH) released their proposed legislation that offers strong and effective solutions to the lead crisis that has been poisoning children in the city of Cleveland for decades. The Cleveland Democratic Socialists of America (DSACLE), a founding member of CLASH, supports this legislation.

“Cleveland’s government has consistently sent out a message that they are taking action, but the problem of lead poisoning persists,” said Rose Driscoll, a member of DSACLE and CLASH. “CLASH is moving forward with the ballot initiative, and DSACLE is moving forward with CLASH.”

The proposed legislation takes a preventative approach by addressing lead exposure at its source, before children are poisoned, while also including crucial tenant protections. Housing is a human right; everyone deserves safe, stable housing in which they can live with dignity. This includes lead-safe homes. Landlords must be held accountable for the safety and lead-safe status of their properties.

At their press conference last month, Cleveland leaders once again sided with the city's landlords over its most vulnerable residents, half-heartedly offering up yet another summit and years long study, which will ultimately shift the responsibility away from city leadership. Mayor Jackson and Cleveland City Council must provide an adequate solution to the crisis, one that requires landlords to ensure properties are safe for tenants and their families.

CLASH is calling on Council to pass this legislation as an ordinance, offering Council an opportunity to work in collaboration with the community. If rejected, in November 2019, the legislation will be taken as a ballot initiative directly to those affected by lead poisoning. With an average of four children testing positive for dangerously elevated blood lead levels every day, there is no time to lose. Clevelanders will continue to come together to resolve this critical issue, either through the agreement of Council or the democratic process. The renters of Cleveland

must organize to protect themselves and their families from the greed and negligence of powerful landlords.

“The City of Cleveland sides with landlords and other private interests time after time,” says Driscoll. “We’ve yet to see them take effective action. CLASH, DSACLE, and other grassroots organizations, in partnership with the people who are impacted by this issue, will not stop fighting until Cleveland’s children are no longer poisoned by their homes, their schools, and their environments.”

ABOUT CLEVELAND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

The Cleveland Democratic Socialists of America (DSACLE) is one of three Northeast Ohio-based chapters of the 55,000-member strong Democratic Socialists of America. Comprised of local activists dedicated to improving the lives of working class Clevelanders through community based organizing rooted in socialist ideals, DSACLE is a founding member of Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing.

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