



**For Immediate Release
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**Statement from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families on the Governor's Veto of
Senate Bill 402 -- Lead Poisoning Liability Bill**

“The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families applauds Governor Doyle’s veto of the lead paint immunity bill, Senate Bill 402. It is simply unacceptable that an industry be protected from those seeking redress for damages through the courts. Lead poisoning is an entirely preventable cause of brain damage in children. Even at low levels, lead can cause significantly reduced IQ and attention span, hyperactivity, impaired growth, reading and learning disabilities, hearing loss, and a range of other health and behavior problems. Most children poisoned by lead are exposed to the toxin in their own homes from peeling paint and paint dust.

“Although this number is declining, in 2003 and 2004 almost 7,000 children have been poisoned by lead. Children in low income families are at greater risk of lead poisoning from older housing stock – often the only choice for families on a tight budget. The Department of Health and Family Services estimates that one of six or 120,000 homes with significant lead hazards in Wisconsin have children under age six living in them.

“Municipalities like Milwaukee that are attempting to clean up the sources of lead poisoning do not have adequate resources for the enormous task. The industry that is responsible for this very serious health threat to Wisconsin’s children should not have broad immunity from the Milwaukee lawsuit. The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families supports the Governor’s decision to veto this legislation.”