

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 3, 1971

Dr. John A. Zapp
E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Dr. Zapp:

Thank you for writing to me about the problems of childhood lead poisoning. I first became aware of the critical need for legislation in this area of health care in the Fall of 1969 when I learned that over 200 children die from this disease each year - and as many as 300,000 children suffer from lead sickness. But our health care system has not adequately responded to the need to improve these conditions.

After introducing in the Senate, a bill designed to provide assistance to combat this disease, I sat in hearings with members of the Senate Health Subcommittee last Fall gathering information for the development of an adequate legislative package. Health officials reported that with federal assistance, local communities would be better prepared to begin programs that would seek out youngsters already sickened with lead poisoning and provide treatment for them.

Because medical histories show that even after treatment youngsters are likely to be poisoned again, we adopted legislation that authorizes programs to eliminate lead painted surfaces from exposure in the homes of young children found to be sick.

With a view toward preventing the development of widespread lead poisoning in the future - this measure also prohibits the use of lead based paints in any federally assisted rehabilitation or construction of residences. Congressional approval of this measure was obtained December 29, 1970 and the Lead Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, P.L. 91-965 became law January 14, 1971.

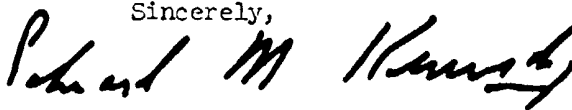
This important legislation properly marks another assault in the continuing battle to provide adequate health safeguards for all of our citizens. I am hopeful that we shall soon see an end to the hazards of lead based paint poisoning.

Thank you for sharing with me your interest in this important legislation.

RECEIVED

FEB 16 1971

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

HASKELL LABORATORY

DUP 000342