

On April 26, 2014, the city of Flint changed its water source from Detroit-supplied Lake Huron to the Flint River water as a temporary measure until a new pipeline to Lake Huron was completed. Water from the Detroit Water and Sewage Department was treated with necessary corrosion control; however, Flint river water was not treated with corrosion control. The change in the water corrosivity—coupled with the decreased water usage (due to population loss and high water rates) and aging lead-based infrastructure—resulted in a perfect storm for lead to leach into the water.

Lead is a potent, irreversible neurotoxin with lifelong, multigenerational impacts. Increasing evidence shows that there is no safe blood lead level and that lead disproportionately impacts low income children. Lead has been linked to decreased IQ and an increased likelihood of ADHD, delinquent behaviors, total arrests, and increased rates of arrests involving violent offenses. There are other adverse effects on health attributable to lead exposure, including but not limited to hematological, cardiovascular, immunological, and endocrine. As we continue to learn more about the deleterious impact of lead, science tells us that the best way to protect children from the consequences of lead is to prevent all exposure to lead. Primary prevention failed in Flint.

Excerpt from Dr. Hanna-Attisha's April 13, 2016 statement before the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, and Subcommittee on Health joint hearing

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#PoetsForScience

Instructions

Create an Emerge poem using the excerpt on the front of this card. Mark out words and phrases with a marker so that other expressions can *Emerge* from the author's original work. Share your work through social media and tag your poem with #PoetsForScience and #TravelingStanzas. Also consider sharing to #ScienceMarch. If you'd like, mail your poem to a friend or loved one by using a first class stamp. Through the collaborative efforts of The Wick Poetry Center and The March For Science we proudly stand together to advocate for the conservation of our environment and the importance of science through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry.



The Poets For Science Collection

Curated by Jane Hirshfield

Visit Science.TravelingStanzas.com

Experience all of the #PoetsForScience Emerge poems in an online collection, read poems about nature and science, and download printable signs and posters for the march

Visit MarchForScience.com

Please visit the online home of the march to learn more and get involved

Mona Hanna-Attisha

Director of Hurley's Pediatric Residency Program, known for her role in revealing the Flint Water Crisis

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