

My name is Mayor Nickole Nesby. First, I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. Although the City of Duquesne is located fifteen (15) minutes outside of the City of Pittsburgh, its conditions are similar to that of a third world country.

During my tenure as Mayor, the city was faced with many water contaminates issues of high levels of Total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and lead for over 20 years. In laboratory animals' exposure to TTHM, which is a carcinogenic, cause's toxicity to the liver, kidneys, and to neurological and reproductive systems. Children (including infants) are generally considered more sensitive to the effects of chemicals ²

² <https://www.mass.gov/guides/drinking-water-standards-and-guidelines>

In 2018, my neighbor contacted me. According to the lead test results, her son's lead results were 7.0 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL). As case study show from Flint, MI, lead levels at 3 ug/dL cause permeate neurological damage to children and violent behavior as adolescence. By the way, 33% of school age children in the City of Duquesne School District, have been medically diagnosed with a learning disability attributed to the water.

The science makes clear that there is no safe level of lead exposure for our children. So, to ensure safe drinking water for our children, we need policies that are strong enough to "get the lead out".

States and communities should:

1. Proactively "get the lead out" by replacing fountains, faucets and other parts containing lead.
2. Installing and maintaining filters certified to remove lead on every faucet or fountain used for cooking and drinking.
3. Adopting a 1 part per billion (ppb) standard for lead in schools' drinking water, consistent with recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
4. Requiring testing at all water outlets used for drinking or cooking annually, using protocols designed to capture worst-case lead exposure for children.
5. Immediately remove from service any faucet or fountain used for drinking or cooking where testing indicates lead in the water.
6. Disclosing all available information about lead in water infrastructure, test results and remediation plans/progress both onsite and online.

7. Provide funding to remove lead in water infrastructure.

As our representatives, you should lobby the federal government to do the following:

- Enforce and strengthen federal rules to protect drinking water from lead — e.g. the Lead and Copper Rule.
- Provide major funding to help states and communities remove lead in water infrastructure — including lead service lines and plumbing/fixtures.
- Marshal the authority of all relevant federal agencies to protect public health from contamination of drinking water. And of course, we should fully protect all sources of drinking water from pollution.