

Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators MALEHA

Representing Local Environmental Public Health Departments in Michigan

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Deb MacKenzie-Taylor, Ph.D., Manager Toxicology and Response Section Michigan Department of Health and Human Services 333 South Grand Ave, 4th floor Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Ms. MacKenzie-Taylor:

The Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators (MALEHA) is writing this letter to support the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Choose Safe Places Program (CSP) that is a part of the ATSDR's Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) grant.

MALEHA is composed of city, county, district and regional Environmental Health Administrators who promote and strengthen the environmental health delivery system through efficient administrative policies and procedures and the coordination of administrative effort at the local level through close cooperation with other health agencies, associations and individuals having similar objectives. We partner with MDHHS and collaborate with programs and services that share our same goals. CSP aligns well with our mission to create environmental health services that advocate for the protection, promotion, and enhancement of environmental health for Michigan residents.

We recently had the opportunity to offer CSP program material feedback on the Voluntary Site Assessment Form created to assist potential childcare providers with identifying potential environmental contamination problems and to help them make educated decisions on future childcare site location. Our collaborative efforts and feedback have helped CSP be able to create a more user-friendly document.

MALEHA sees a great need for CSP services to ensure children in childcare are safe. We strongly support the efforts of the CSP program and urges continued funding through the APPLETREE grant.

Please contact me at 517-552-6870 or mbolang@livgov.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Matt Bolang