

## August 11, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Tours Rochester Healthy Home

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Tours Rochester Healthy Home, Continues Working to Improve Local Lead Hazards

City of Rochester Ranked Among Top Ten Cities With Worst Lead Paint Problems

Rochester, NY - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today toured the Rochester Healthy Home to discuss ongoing efforts to remediate elevated lead levels among children in Western New York.

Unfortunately, the City of Rochester is ranked among the top ten cities in the United States with the worst lead paint problems. In Monroe County alone, an average of 1,200 children are estimated to be exposed to lead poisoning each

year, and 37 percent of the children tested have more lead in their blood than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently considers safe.

"As too many parents have learned, lead hazards are a silent predator that attack our children in the very places they should be the most secure, our homes," said Rep. Slaughter. "We must continue to fight to reduce the terrible threat of lead poisoning in our community."

Throughout her Congressional career, Rep. Slaughter has fought to increase funding for lead paint remediation programs and has introduced legislation to reduce children's exposure to lead hazards at child care centers. The Rochester Healthy Home, a hands-on museum that aims to educate the Rochester community about home health hazards, is a vital partner in the effort to eliminate lead poisoning.

"As important as federal policy is to eliminate lead poisoning, it is essential that we equip parents and children with the knowledge and skills to identify home health hazards and safely eliminate them from their homes," Slaughter continued. "I applaud all those who have made the Healthy Home possible on their tremendous work to safeguard our community."

## BACKGROUND

Rep. Slaughter is a leader in Congress in the fight to end childhood lead poisoning in Western New York and across the country.

Earlier this Congress, Rep. Slaughter joined Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) to introduce the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act, critical legislation reduce children's lead exposure in childcare centers. Currently, there is no federal guidance to help childcare centers safely remove lead hazards from their facilities. This bill would provide the guidance and resources necessary to make non-home-based childcare facilities lead-safe within five years.

Additionally, Rep. Slaughter has championed annual increases in funding for the Office of Lead Hazard Control at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Within the past few years, this program directly awarded over \$5 million to the City of Rochester and Monroe County.

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