



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

February 25, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 US Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 US Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Support Flint Families

Dear Leaders McConnell and Reid:

Youth ALIVE! is a violence prevention and intervention organization that helps young people become leaders and advocates for the change they would like to see in their communities through our Teens on Target Program, mentors and supports healing for young people who have been violently injured through our Caught in the Crossfire program, and works with families grieving in the wake of a homicide through our Khadafy Washington Project. I write in support of the children of Flint, Michigan, as they grapple with urgent infrastructure and health needs concerning their water contamination situation.

We know that members of both political parties in the Senate are affronted by whatever circumstances led to these conditions confronting the citizens of Flint.

We are also mindful of the great history of our nation to respond to both man-made and natural disasters: Murrah Federal Building bombing, Hurricane Katrina, ice-storms in Atlanta, and tornadoes in the mid-west from Oklahoma, to Joplin, to Ohio. Now, the water contamination in Flint demands our immediate attention and response.

These children and families have waited almost two years for recognition of their deteriorating infrastructure and health conditions. Now that this tragedy is exposed, we ask you to act promptly to provide monetary and consulting assistance to improve Flint's water system to acceptable standards. It is also important to act quickly to address the medical, developmental, and educational consequences of lead-contaminated water. The developing bodies and brains of children cannot wait. Their physical development and psychological recovery must begin now and will need response for some time into the future.

We applaud the amendment by Sen. Stabenow to provide immediate infrastructure funding relief and to examine through further study the long-term impacts of lead exposure, so that future consequences of this tragedy are appropriately and accurately addressed for these citizens and for all of America's communities that may become victims of similar circumstances.

Youth ALIVE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 94-3143254.

YOUTH ALIVE!
3300 Elm Street
Oakland, CA 94609
Tel: (510) 594-2588
Fax: (510) 594-0667
mail@youthalive.org
www.youthalive.org

**HONORARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA
Former Mayor of Los Angeles

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS
Actor

AL JARREAU
Singer/Musician

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHILLIP S. CHANG
Principal
Redondo Surgical
Los Angeles, CA

ALISA DEWYS
Consultant
Resources Global Professionals
San Francisco, CA

DAVID E. DURANT
General Counsel
Blackhawk Network
Pleasanton, CA

ANGELA JENKINS
Director
N. Cal Community Benefit Funded
Programs
Kaiser Permanente
Oakland, CA

MICHAEL NIETO
Deputy District Attorney
Alameda County
District Attorney's Office
Oakland, CA

ELIZABETH SEKERA
Clinic Director
Lyon-Martin Health Services
San Francisco, CA

SIARA SPRIGGS
Residential Counselor
The Refuge, Inc.
Oakland, CA

LA'BAN WADE II
Student
UC Berkeley

STAN WEISNER
Director Behavioral and
Biological Sciences
UC Berkeley Extension
Berkeley, CA

GREGORY VICTORINO
Chief, Division of Trauma
Alameda Health System
Oakland, CA

ANNE C. MARKS
Executive Director
Youth ALIVE!
Oakland, CA