

LEAD PAINT ABATEMENT AMENDMENT

Sponsored by: Senators Collins, Inhofe, Alexander, Brownback, Brown (MA), Gregg, Snowe, Coburn, Bond and Murkowski

On April 22nd, a new EPA regulation regarding work in homes with lead-based paint went into effect. The new rule requires that contractors who are hired to do work that might disturb lead paint must first be certified to do so, or face a fine of up to \$37,500 per day, per incident. Unfortunately, the EPA has failed to plan adequately for the implementation of this rule. There are not enough trainers in place to certify the contractors. In Maine, for example, there are only three EPA trainers to certify contractors for the entire state, and only about 10 percent of the state's contractors have been certified. In Tennessee, where people are trying to fix homes damaged by major flooding, there are only three trainers.

It is important to protect people, especially children, from exposure to lead paint. But, we must help the contractors who want to receive the training, but are unable to do so due to the lack of trainers. The Collins lead paint abatement amendment is a common sense approach to fix a problem created by out of touch Washington bureaucrats. The Collins amendment would bar the EPA from levying fines against contractors who have signed up for training classes by September 30, 2010. This delay will allow adequate time for contractors to comply with the law without fear of a fine that could put them out of business. At the same time, it protects children's health by ensuring training opportunities. To be clear, this amendment does not stop the EPA from punishing those who willingly break the law and endanger a child's well-being; it simply gives the EPA more time to ensure there are a sufficient number of trainers in each state.

This amendment is supported by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the National Association of Homebuilders, the Window and Door Manufacturer Association, and the National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association. NFIB will score it as a "Key Vote."

Number of trainers per state as of May 11, 2010:

Alabama - 2	Kentucky - 2	North Dakota
Alaska - 3	Louisiana - 0	I
Arizona - 1	Maine - 3	
Arkansas - 2	Maryland - 6	
California - 14	Massachusetts - 8	
Colorado - 6	Michigan - 14	
Connecticut - 9	Minnesota - 2	
Delaware - 2	Mississippi - 2	
District of Columbia - 1	Missouri - 6	
Florida - 9	Montana - 1	
Georgia - 3	Nebraska - 6	
Hawaii - 2	Nevada - 4	
Idaho - 3	New Hampshire - 3	
Illinois - 8	New Jersey - 6	
Indiana - 2	New Mexico - 1	
Iowa - 1	New York - 15	
Kansas - 2	North Carolina - 4	