

Lead-testing bill would protect children

It is the responsibility of the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. to promote affordable and quality child care, to provide information and support to families, and to strengthen the early childhood workforce in Dutchess and Putnam counties. As such, the Child Care Council offers training, technical assistance and other supports to child care providers to help them comply with regulations and provide a safe and appropriate program for children in care. Sen. Schumer's proposed legislation will certainly improve the quality of child care and create a more healthy environment for children and staff in day care centers. The OCSF regulations set a minimum standard that the day care centers must meet.

This proposed bill to fund lead testing will enhance those regulations and ensure that young children in care will have a better chance of developing without the added risk of lead related problems affecting growth, behavior, and the ability to learn.

Jeanne Wagner is executive director of Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. in Poughkeepsie.

Bruce Williams
Red Hook

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When she was on the tarmac, she dodged sniper fire. The video of her on the tarmac proved that this was a lie. Then she gave a reset button to the Russian foreign minister. However, instead of being a reset button, it translated to being an overcharge button. Then when the bodies the Americans were being taken off the aircraft, she told the parents of the deceased that they were dead as a result of a video; this was an outright lie and she knew the real truth. When she was questioned by the Senate regarding the disaster in Benghazi, her comment regarding the dead Americans was totally inappropriate when she said, "what difference does it make?"

The bottom line is it happened on her watch. But, as usual, she doesn't take ownership of the disaster and admit she made a mistake.

It is hard to believe this is the best candidate the Democrats have to put up for president.

Fred Nagel
Rhinebeck

Sanders gets pass by pledging 'free stuff'

Eight years ago, it was very widely said that former Republican presidential candidate John McCain, who was 71-years-old, was too old to be president. Currently, socialist Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is 74-years-old. I guess as long as the old white guy gives you free

JEANNE WAGNER VALLEY VIEWS



On March 30, as executive director of the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc., I was pleased to attend the press conference held by U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., at Clinton School in Poughkeepsie.

Sen. Schumer announced he would sponsor a new bill that would create a \$100 million federal grant program to fund lead testing in New York schools and day care centers. Day care centers that are housed in buildings constructed prior to 1986 may have lead pipes that are contaminating the water that the children are drinking. Lead is a poison and is especially harmful for children. If a child ingests lead into the body, it could cause a lower IQ, kidney damage, hearing loss, growth problems, anemia and behavior problems. Symptoms of lead poisoning in children may include fatigue, crankiness and stomach aches, although often there are no signs and only a blood test can indicate the problem exists. Treating the source of the lead and eliminating the solution, identifying the

It is the only way to correct the problem. With 65 day care centers in Dutchess County and 28 in Putnam County, the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. wholeheartedly supports Sen. Schumer's legislation to reimburse New York's day care centers for the cost of testing water. All licensed day care centers in New York state must follow regulations issued by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). These regulations include guidelines on lead screening. Each day care center must try to obtain a copy of a lead screening certificate and keep it on file for each child under the age of six years. If the parent does not have that certificate, the center may not exclude the child from enrolling in the program, but must give the parent information on lead poisoning and prevention, and refer the parent to the child's health-care provider or the local health department for a lead blood screening. In addition, each child enrolled in a day care center must submit an OCFS medical form completed by a physician. The medical form further addresses lead screening by requiring the most recent date of lead screening and the results and includes the statement that per state law, a blood test is required at one and