



# ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR *for* CALIFORNIA

## **The Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act**

The *Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act* would invest a historic \$45 billion to replace every lead service line and pipe in America within the next 10 years.

The legislation meets President Biden’s commitment in the American Jobs Plan to eliminate all lead pipes and service lines in the country and reduce lead exposure in 400,000 schools and childcare facilities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common sources of [lead in drinking water](#) are lead pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures. Nationwide, there are 6 to 10 million lead service lines [serving up to 22 million Americans](#) and impacting Americans living in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. The only way to guarantee lead-free drinking water is to remove and replace every lead pipe and service line in America – just as this legislation would ensure.

The *Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act* would:

- Reauthorize EPA’s lead reduction projects grant program and increase the authorization to \$4.5 billion per year for ten years.
- Prioritize disadvantaged communities.
- Require the EPA to coordinate with states on implementation.
- Set a ten-year deadline for projects to complete the lead service line removal.
- Guarantee that funded projects pay a prevailing wage.

Epidemiologic studies have consistently demonstrated that there is no safe level of exposure to lead. According to the EPA, lead is [particularly harmful for young children](#): low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, impaired hearing, impaired physical development, and impaired formation and function of blood cells. EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead can be harmful to human health, even at low exposure levels.

The *Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act* would protect public health by guaranteeing that all Americans have access to lead-free drinking water. By providing funding for grants and prioritizing disadvantaged communities, this legislation would also reduce disparities in access to clean water and ensure that the burden of paying for lead service line replacement does not fall on disadvantaged communities.