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My name is Kevin Kennedy. I am here representing the 4th district in Kansas City, Missouri. I am providing this testimony in support of full restoration of the \$500,000 in Health Levy funding for Children's Mercy. This is important financial support that our institution counts on to support the valuable services we provide.

I am the Program Director for the Environmental Health Program at Children's Mercy. I have had the good fortune of serving in this position for the last 19 years. Our program has worked with over 10,000 families and visited and assessed over 2000 homes in the Kansas City Metro. We have been fortunate to receive healthy home grants over the years that supported some of our effort and paid for home supplies and home repairs for hundreds of Kansas City families. As part of this effort, the majority of our labor for working in the homes of families has been at Children's Mercy's expense

Through the last 19 years we successfully collaborated with the City's Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Program on a wide array of community initiatives. The program has been a sub-grantee partner on several of our grants and we have worked together on several lead poison prevention and healthy homes projects that have benefited Kansas City, Missouri children and their families.

For the last 10 years we have served as the regional healthy home training center teaching healthy home courses here in Kansas City to thousands of people. For many of those years the KCMO Health Department was our training partner and co-taught classes with our staff. Even today we teach 2 – 3 healthy home courses every quarter, including last week, at the KCMO Health dept. Once again this year, we have worked together with their staff to teach healthy home training courses for homeless people at the ReStart program here in the city.

We remain major supporters of the city's new healthy home inspection program and all of the healthy home inspectors have received healthy home assessment training at no cost from Children's Mercy staff. We continue to offer this support at no cost whenever new staff are hired.

In yet another collaboration between us and the KCMO Health Dept., you can go to the city's web site and find our new One Touch KC web-based community resource referral program that we have started in collaboration with KCMO Health staff with the goal connecting Kansas City Families to community resources to help them keep their families healthy and safe.

Please fully restore the funding for Children's Mercy and continue to support our work in the neighborhoods throughout Kansas City, Missouri. Thank you for your time.

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