

David Schonberger
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"Got KI?" Campaign

March 15, 2017

As House members proceed to discuss Appropriations for the next MDHHS fiscal year, I urge the reps to consider allocating funds for improving the efficacy of ongoing efforts by MDHHS to properly educate the public and supply potassium iodide (KI) tablets to individuals residing within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) of Michigan's three nuclear power plants.

As a concerned citizen, I gave testimony to the Michigan Senate Energy and Technology Committee on March 2, 2017 pertaining to the state population's inadequate preparedness for a general public health emergency in the event of a severe nuclear accident in Michigan. My public testimony is available on recorded video at Senate TV: <https://misenate.viebit.com/player.php?hash=5U73ioQhitWD>

During my March 15, 2017 testimony before the Michigan House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, on behalf of the "Got KI?" Campaign, I cited an original MDHHS/U-M cooperative research study published in a highly-regarded, peer-reviewed journal in October 2012: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23077269> or <http://www.radiationready.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/DMPHP-Zwolinski.pdf>

The researchers' conclusions are stark and concerning, and I urge every House member to read the brief Abstract, at least.

Respectfully, therefore, I request action from the Michigan Legislature to provide funds to allow the MDHHS to adequately prepare and educate the state population on the use of KI and any other applicable public health emergency resource. Concurrently, the Legislature should prudently provide sufficient program funding for improved monitoring and tracking of the KI distribution program's efficacy, consistent with the findings and recommendations published in the October 2012 research study.

The "Got KI?" education and advocacy campaign seeks to bring much-needed attention to this public health policy issue. Our door-to-door survey data collected in 2015-2016 suggest that not much has changed for the better since the alarming, original study results were published in 2012.

Considering that the prestigious National Research Council has strongly criticized the effectiveness of voucher-type KI distribution program models (see References section, October 2012 study), the "Got KI?" Campaign in Michigan advocates for a new and improved, augmented KI distribution program based on an international best-practices "direct delivery" model instead of continuing to rely on "redeemable KI vouchers." We believe Michiganders deserve to receive at least the same level of KI protection as is now given to our neighbors in

Canada, following lessons learned from the recent global history of actual nuclear power plant accidents.

Furthermore, we support efforts to expand effective KI coverage to the general population beyond nuclear power plant communities based on public health policy recommendations issued in 2014 by the American Thyroid Association (ATA):

http://www.thyroid.org/wp-content/uploads/patients/brochures/NuclearRadiation_brochure.pdf

Again, as a citizen of this Great Lakes State, I thank you kindly for your time and attention to this request.

Should any House member wish to contact me about this matter, my e-mail address is:

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Sincerely,

David Schonberger
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