Senate Has Agreed to a \$250M Flint Aid Package That Also Targets Larger National Problem of Lead Pipe Corrosion

Comparisons of Old and New Flint Aid Package Proposals in Millions of Dollars

- Direct aid to Flint to repair and replace lead pipes
- Center on Lead Poisoning
- Loan Program for States and Localities to Improve Drinking Water Infrastructure
- Health Programs to Combat and Deal with Toxin Exposure



Why the Different Funding Levels Between the New and Old Aid Package Proposals?

- Some Senate Republicans do not think Flint is comparable to a natural disaster because a political decision caused the crisis
- Therefore, it is not as justified to use federal emergency funds
- Other senators are concerned money could be wasted because Michigan state and local officials do not have clear plans on how they will use funds
- Senate wanted to expand the scope of the aid to address the national problem of corroding pipes
- Senate needed funds to pay for aid and they agreed to take \$250 million from an existing Department of Energy loan program

National Loan Program

- Money would not just go to Flint, but would be a national loan program to improve drinking water infrastructure
- \$100 million of this would be set aside specifically for states who declare an emergency because of a contaminated water supply

Sources: Timothy Cama, "Senate Agrees to \$250M Flint Aid Package," The Hill, February 24, 2016; Chicago Tribune, "Ted Cruz Lifts Hold on Bipartisan Bill to Replace Water Pipes in Flint", February 26, 2016.