



AAPCC NEWS RELEASE

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American Association of Poison Control Centers Commends House of Representatives Passage of [H.R. 5329](#) – Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2018

Alexandria, VA – American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) applauds House passage of [H.R. 5329](#), the Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2018.

H.R. 5329 reauthorizes federal funding for the nation's 55 poison control centers through FY 2023. Federal dollars currently comprise approximately 13% of funding for poison control centers, an important source to keep poison control centers' vital services free of charge and open 24/7.

Poison control centers are on the frontlines of major public health emergencies and epidemics, for example, handling approximately 500,000 cases of opioid misuse and abuse since 2011. Poison control also serves a critical public health role after natural disasters and for dangerous exposures to substances as diverse as liquid laundry packets, synthetic cannabinoids, e-cigarettes, marijuana, and carbon monoxide. In addition, centers assist first responders and hospital personnel, conduct surveillance to identify emerging drugs of abuse, and deliver countless hours of educational outreach. H.R. 5329 ensures that poison control centers and their specially-trained physicians, nurses, and pharmacists can continue to provide these and other critical services.

AAPCC would like to thank the bill's primary sponsor, [Representative Susan Brooks](#) of Indiana, for her support and assistance in overseeing this reauthorization through the House. H.R. 5329 passed the House on June 12, 2018 by a voice vote and now awaits consideration in the Senate.

AAPCC reminds the public that in case of potential poison exposure, call the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222. To save the number in your phone text POISON to 797979. Poison experts are available 24/7 and advice is free of charge.

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About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)

AAPCC supports the nation's 55 poison control center members in their efforts to treat and prevent exposures to drugs, consumer products, animal venom, environmental hazards and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline (1-800-222-1222), a service that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians and poison information providers. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979.**