

POISON CONTROL CENTERS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF  
 2024

MAY 17, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of  
 the Union and ordered to be printed

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, from the Committee on Energy and  
 Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 7251]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred  
 the bill (H.R. 7251) to amend the Public Health Service Act to re-  
 authorize certain poison control programs, having considered the  
 same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and rec-  
 ommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of  
 2024”.

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF POISON CONTROL PROGRAMS.**

(a) NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND OTHER COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES.—Section 1271(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–71(c)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

(b) PROMOTING POISON CONTROL CENTER UTILIZATION.—Section 1272(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–72(c)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

(c) POISON CONTROL CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 1273(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–73(g)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

**PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

H.R. 7251 reauthorizes certain poison control programs. These programs include the maintenance of the national toll-free phone number, the promotion of poison control center utilization, and the maintenance of a program that awards grants to accredited poison control centers.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION**

The Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act was originally signed into law in 2000 and established a nationwide toll-free number, a media campaign, and authorized resources to regional poison control centers to ensure they can continue operating.<sup>1</sup> There are fifty-five poison centers nationwide that help with poison emergencies, provide assistance to health care professionals, and disseminate poison prevention treatment education to the public.<sup>2</sup>

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

On February 14, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 7251. The title of the hearing was “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Andy Shih, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks;
  - Corey Feist, JD, MBA, Co-Founder and CEO, Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation;
  - Joanne Pike, DrPH, President and CEO, Alzheimer’s Association;
  - Gordon Tomaselli, MD, Former President, American Heart Association; Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Emeritus and Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;
  - Michelle Whitten, President, CEO, and Co-Founder, Global Down Syndrome Foundation;
  - Randy Strozyk, President, American Ambulance Association;
- and
- Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President of Extramural Discovery Science, American Cancer Society.

<sup>1</sup>Public Law 106–174: Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-106publ174/pdf/PLAW-106publ174.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Health Resources and Services Administration, Poison Centers. <https://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/poison-centers>.

On March 12, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health met in open markup session and forwarded H.R. 7251, as amended, to the full Committee by a record vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays.

On March 20, 2024, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 7251, as amended, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 47 yeas and 0 nays.

#### COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
118TH CONGRESS  
ROLL CALL VOTE # 14**

**BILL:** H.R. 7251, Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of 2024

**AMENDMENT:** A motion by Chair Rodgers to order H.R. 7251 favorably reported to the House, as amended (Final Passage).

**DISPOSITION:** **AGREED TO**, by a roll call vote of 47 yeas to 0 nays.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Rep. Rodgers	X			Rep. Pallone	X		
Rep. Burgess	X			Rep. Eshoo	X		
Rep. Latta	X			Rep. DeGette	X		
Rep. Guthrie	X			Rep. Schakowsky	X		
Rep. Griffith	X			Rep. Matsui	X		
Rep. Bilirakis	X			Rep. Castor	X		
Rep. Bucshon	X			Rep. Sarbanes	X		
Rep. Hudson	X			Rep. Tonko	X		
Rep. Walberg	X			Rep. Clarke	X		
Rep. Carter	X			Rep. Cárdenas	X		
Rep. Duncan	X			Rep. Ruiz	X		
Rep. Palmer	X			Rep. Peters	X		
Rep. Dunn	X			Rep. Dingell	X		
Rep. Curtis				Rep. Veasey	X		
Rep. Lesko	X			Rep. Kuster			
Rep. Pence	X			Rep. Kelly			
Rep. Crenshaw	X			Rep. Barragán	X		
Rep. Joyce	X			Rep. Blunt Rochester			
Rep. Armstrong	X			Rep. Soto	X		
Rep. Weber	X			Rep. Craig	X		
Rep. Allen	X			Rep. Schrier	X		
Rep. Balderson	X			Rep. Trahan	X		
Rep. Fulcher	X			Rep. Fletcher	X		
Rep. Pfluger	X						
Rep. Harshbarger	X						
Rep. Miller-Meeks	X						
Rep. Cammack	X						
Rep. Obernolte	X						

03/20/2024

#### OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held a hearing and made findings that are reflected in this report.

#### NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 7251 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to ensure that communities and their health care professionals have the resources to prevent and respond to poison emergencies.

#### DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 7251 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

#### RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 7251:

- On February 14, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 7251. The title of the hearing was “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Andy Shih, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks;
- Corey Feist, JD, MBA, Co-Founder and CEO, Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation;
- Joanne Pike, DrPH, President and CEO, Alzheimer’s Association;
- Gordon Tomaselli, MD, Former President, American Heart Association; Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Emeritus and Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;

- Michelle Whitten, President, CEO, and Co-Founder, Global Down Syndrome Foundation;
- Randy Strozyk, President, American Ambulance Association; and
- Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President of Extramural Discovery Science, American Cancer Society.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 7251 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

*Section 1. Short title*

Section 1 provides that the Act may be cited as the “Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

*Section 2. Reauthorization of poison control programs*

Section 2 reauthorizes certain poison control programs through Fiscal Year 2029, including the national toll-free poison control hotline and the grants for national poison control center operations.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT**

\* \* \* \* \*

## TITLE XII—TRAUMA CARE

\* \* \* \* \*

## PART G—POISON CONTROL

**SEC. 1271. MAINTENANCE OF THE NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND OTHER COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

(1) shall provide coordination and assistance to poison control centers for the establishment and maintenance of a nationwide toll-free phone number, to be used to access such centers; and

(2) may provide coordination and assistance to poison control centers and consult with professional organizations for the establishment, implementation, and maintenance of other communication technologies to be used to access such centers.

(b) ROUTING CONTACTS WITH POISON CONTROL CENTERS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall coordinate with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, to the extent technically and economically feasible, to ensure that communications with the national toll-free number are routed to the appropriate poison control center based on the physical location of the contact rather than the area code of the contact device.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$700,000 for each of [fiscal years 2020 through 2024] *fiscal years 2025 through 2029* for the establishment, implementation, and maintenance activities carried out under subsections (a) and (b).

**SEC. 1272. PROMOTING POISON CONTROL CENTER UTILIZATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out, and expand upon, a national media campaign to educate and support outreach to the public and health care providers about poisoning and toxic exposure prevention and the availability of poison control center resources in local communities and to conduct advertising campaigns concerning the nationwide toll-free number and other available communication technologies established, implemented, or maintained under section 1271(a).

(b) CONTRACT WITH ENTITY.—The Secretary may carry out subsection (a) by entering into contracts with one or more public or private entities, including nationally recognized organizations in the field of poison control and national media firms, for the development and implementation of a nationwide poisoning and toxic exposure prevention and poison control center awareness campaign, which may include—

(1) the development and distribution of poisoning and toxic exposure prevention awareness materials, applicable public health emergency preparedness and response information, and poison control center awareness materials;

(2) television, radio, Internet, and newspaper public service announcements; and

(3) other activities to provide for public and professional awareness and education.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$800,000 for each of **[fiscal years 2020 through 2024]** *fiscal years 2025 through 2029*.

**SEC. 1273. MAINTENANCE OF THE POISON CONTROL CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall award grants to poison control centers accredited under subsection (c) (or granted a waiver under subsection (d)) and professional organizations in the field of poison control for the purposes of preventing, and providing treatment recommendations for, poisonings and toxic exposures and complying with the operational requirements needed to sustain the accreditation of the center under subsection (c).

(b) **ADDITIONAL USES OF FUNDS.**—In addition to the purposes described in subsection (a), a poison center or professional organization awarded a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under such subsection may also use amounts received under such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement—

(1) to research, establish, implement, and evaluate best practices in the United States for poisoning and toxic exposure prevention, poison control center outreach, and emergency preparedness and response programs;

(2) to research, develop, implement, revise, and communicate standard patient management guidelines for commonly encountered toxic exposures;

(3) to improve national toxic exposure surveillance by enhancing cooperative activities between poison control centers in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other government agencies as determined to be appropriate and nonduplicative by the Secretary;

(4) to research, improve, and enhance the communications and response capability and capacity of the nation's network of poison control centers to facilitate increased access to the centers through the integration and modernization of the current poison control centers communications and data system, including enhancing the network's telephony, Internet, data and social networking technologies;

(5) to develop, support, and enhance technology and capabilities of professional organizations in the field of poison control to collect national poisoning, toxic occurrence, and related public health data;

(6) to develop initiatives to foster the enhanced public health utilization of national poison data collected by organizations described in paragraph (5);

(7) to support and expand the toxicologic expertise within poison control centers; and

(8) to improve the capacity of poison control centers to answer high volumes of contacts and Internet communications, and to sustain and enhance the poison control center's network capability to respond during times of national crisis or other public health emergencies.

(c) **ACCREDITATION.**—Except as provided in subsection (d), the Secretary may award a grant to a poison control center under subsection (a) only if—

(1) the center has been accredited by a professional organization in the field of poison control, and the Secretary has ap-



proved the organization as having in effect standards for accreditation that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning; or

(2) the center has been accredited by a State government, and the Secretary has approved the State government as having in effect standards for accreditation that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning.

(d) WAIVER OF ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant a waiver of the accreditation requirements of subsection (c) with respect to a nonaccredited poison control center that applies for a grant under this section if such center can reasonably demonstrate that the center will obtain such an accreditation within a reasonable period of time as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a waiver under paragraph (1).

(3) LIMITATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The sum of the number of years for a waiver under paragraph (1) and a renewal under paragraph (2) may not exceed 5 years.

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—Notwithstanding any previous waivers, in the case of a poison control center whose accreditation is affected by a public health emergency declared pursuant to section 319, the Secretary may, as the circumstances of the emergency reasonably require, provide a waiver under paragraph (1) or a renewal under paragraph (2), not to exceed 2 years. The Secretary may require quarterly reports and other information related to such a waiver or renewal under this paragraph.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made available to a poison control center under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State or local funds provided for such center.

(f) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect to activities for which a grant is awarded under this section, the Secretary may require that poison control centers agree to maintain the expenditures of the center for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of expenditures maintained by the center for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the grant is received.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$28,600,000 for each of **[fiscal years 2020 through 2024]** *fiscal years 2025 through 2029*. The Secretary may utilize an amount not to exceed 6 percent of the amount appropriated under this preceding sentence in each fiscal year for coordination, dissemination, technical assistance, program evaluation, data activities, and other program administration functions, which are determined by the Secretary to be appropriate for carrying out the program under this section.

(h) BIENNIAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report con-

cerning the operations of, and trends identified by, the Poison Control Network. Such report shall include—

(1) descriptions of the activities carried out pursuant to sections 1271, 1272, and 1273, and the alignment of such activities with the purposes provided under subsection (a);

(2) a description of trends in volume of contacts to poison control centers;

(3) a description of trends in poisonings and toxic exposures reported to poison control centers, as applicable and appropriate;

(4) an assessment of the impact of the public awareness campaign, including any geographic variations;

(5) a description of barriers, if any, preventing poison control centers from achieving the purposes and programs under this section and sections 1271 and 1272;

(6) a description of the standards for accreditation described in subsection (c), including any variations in those standards, and any efforts to create and maintain consistent standards across organizations that accredit poison control centers; and

(7) the number of and reason for any waivers provided under subsection (d).

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