

DATE: January 30, 2013

TO: The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Sandy Giffin, RN, MS
Director, Oregon Poison Center

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2092, Injury Prevention Program Bill

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee, my name is Sandy Giffin, and I am Director of the Oregon Poison Center. I am writing to encourage you to support HB 2092, which would require OHA's Public Health Division to establish and administer an injury and violence prevention program.

This bill would establish clear authority for the OHA to conduct population-based activities to reduce injury and violence, and conduct activities with partners throughout the state to reduce injuries due to accidents, suicide, homicide, and poisoning. Currently, OHA has regulatory authority to collect data on diseases. Extending that authority to cover injury is a logical next step.

Injury is the third leading cause of death in Oregon, behind only cancer and heart disease. It is also among the leading causes of hospitalization. It is typical to consider some causes of death – cancer, heart disease, stroke – as mainly affecting older Oregonians. However, everyone is affected by injury, regardless of age, sex, or race. The good news is that injury is predictable and in many cases preventable. Poisoning is a significant component of accidental injuries.

The Injury and Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) is the primary resource in Oregon for state injury data. Staff routinely provides epidemiologic expertise, data, and technical assistance to individuals, agencies, policy makers, and other partners outside the program. Surveillance data have been used to determine the burden of injury in Oregon; to assess the impact of policy implementation; provide analysis to prevention partners; to publish reports and research; evaluate injury outcomes and assess policy implications; provide information to the news media; and to guide policy initiatives.

IVPP collaborates with groups, organizations and agencies engaged in trauma and acute care, emergency medical services, chronic disease prevention, environmental health and the built environment, maternal and child health, school health, traffic safety, law enforcement, victim's services, and occupational safety to implement programs and policies aimed at reducing the burden of injury in Oregon. As the designated certified poison center for Oregon, we have a role in analysis of poisoning trends, poison prevention education, as well as medical management of over 40,000 cases of poisoning and toxic exposures that occur each year. The poison center works closely with OHA in efforts improve management of patients, and understand trends and patterns in the epidemiology of poisoning for the purpose of reducing the incidence and severity of this type of injury. The Injury and Violence Prevention Program is a key component of these efforts and will enable us to provide improved service in reducing injury in Oregon.

I encourage you to support this bill. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is any additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,



Sandy Giffin, RN, MS
Director
Oregon Poison Center