



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

TESTIMONY FOR OREGON POISON CONTROL CENTER

April 28, 2023

Dear State Legislature:

My name is Rebecca Ambrose. Since 2019, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has employed me as the Early Childhood Education Family & Community Partnership Coordinator for Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool. I have twice engaged the Oregon Poison Control Center to offer resources to our students and Tribal community, and I am writing in support of Oregon Poison Control Center's budget request.

As you may be aware, children in the 0-5 age range, who are typically served in Early Childhood Education programs are at high-risk for accidental ingestion and poisoning. The State of Oregon is in an unprecedented era of legalization and decriminalization of drugs, which puts the youngest in the State at increased risk of poisoning since substance use alters perception and judgment of the user. At the same time the State of Oregon has moved to decriminalize use of drugs like marijuana, methamphetamine, opioids, and psilocybin mushrooms, there has been dramatic increase in overdose and fatalities in our communities. These overdoses effect all age groups and endanger children. The children (who are the future) of Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde attend Willamina School District, which was contaminated with Fentanyl on campus, endangering the lives of students and police officers. It seems I hear of at least one Fentanyl overdose daily these days.

Oregon Poison Control Center services cover all kinds of poisonings, including accidental ingestion. As a young mother, I have had to call them on at least on occasion when my toddler tried to eat spackle, a household repair product. I cannot think of a better service than having professional advice in a matter of seconds when you think your child's life is in danger.

I fully support the Oregon Poison Control Center, its mission, and budget request. The Outreach Education staff of the Oregon Poison Control Center have provided educational presentations to the parents of 0-5 year old children on our campus. They have also graciously attended and provided outreach and support at a Safety Fair that we had on campus. Their materials promote safety, are factual, and are capable of effecting true change in communities. I ask that you approve their requested amount in consideration of the perils that face Oregonians who are at-risk of accidental ingestion or overdose.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Ambrose".

Rebecca Ambrose
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