



**Oregon Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians**

To: Rep. Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Sen. Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
The Education Subcommittee

From: Alex Skog, MD, FACEP, President
Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians

Subject: Support for Adequate Funding for the Oregon Poison Center

Rep. McLain, Sen. Frederick and members of the subcommittee on education, please accept this statement for the record on behalf of OR-ACEP, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. OR-ACEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

OR-ACEP strongly urges the committee to support the proposed budget for funding of the Oregon Poison Center.

From the vantage point of treating Oregonian's every day in the emergency department, the Oregon Poison Center is a vital resource that saves the lives daily. In addition to being a vital resource for the treatment of toxic exposures for Oregonians at home, the Oregon Poison Center is one of the primary sources of information we use to treat poisoned patients in the emergency department. As an emergency department physician, I experience daily how strained the resources and staff are in the emergency department. Not only does the Oregon Poison Center direct people to us the at need our help, but, just as critically, it identifies patients who can be safely treated at home or by other resources preventing a huge number of unnecessary emergency department visits.

With the continually evolution of the substance abuse epidemic, the poison center is more valuable than ever for emergency physicians in the state to keep up to date on the newest substances that our patients may have been exposed to and arm us with the knowledge to know how best to treat them.

The massive service that the Oregon Poison Center provides needs to be supported by adequate financing. I fear that if there is a deficit in necessary funding, some of the services that have helped save my patients' lives will be reduced.

We urge your support for the Oregon Poison Center's proposed budget so that it can continue to be a lifesaving resource for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chapter President- Alex Skog MD FACEP

Chapter Executive- Sierra Acker

President-Elect- Craig Rudy, MD

Government Relations Director- Katy King