

Please Vote Yes on HB4230 and SB2674
Stable Funding for the Illinois Poison Center!

The Illinois Poison Center may have to shut down its confidential poison hotline this summer without a stable funding source to keep it open. The publically and privately funded center is running out of funds to manage its operations and has asked Senator Don Harmon and Representative Camille Lilly to introduce two identical bills to provide a stable and continuous funding source for the Center for years to come.

Both Bills:

- Amend the Wireless Emergency Telephone Safety Act.
- Draw 2¢ from the existing wireless telephone carrier surcharge for each Illinois billed cell phone to be placed in the newly created Poison Response Fund to provide funds for operations of the Illinois Poison Center.
- Funds are currently accumulating in the Wireless Carrier Reimbursement Fund and the Wireless Service Emergency Fund and those balances would not be reduced.

The Illinois Poison Center (IPC)

- Illinois is a non-profit health service providing the citizens of Illinois with access to comprehensive information and treatment advice on potentially harmful substances via a free, confidential 24-hour helpline.
- The helpline is staffed with specially trained medical experts including physicians, nurses and pharmacists.
- The Poison Center is housed in downtown Chicago but serves the entire State of Illinois answering nearly 80,000 calls each year from parents, patients, EMS, physicians, nurses, pharmacists and others.
- Approximately 47% of the calls received last year were related to poison exposure to children ages 5 and younger.
- IPC saves the citizens and the State \$52 million annually by preventing 991 calls and visits to the doctor, hospital, or emergency room.
- The IPC is the nation's oldest and one of the largest poison centers in the U.S. and is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.

The Illinois Poison Center is an important resource and cost saver for Illinois and its citizens. **Please VOTE YES on both SB2674 and HB4230.**

Thank You!