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May 15, 2018

The Honorable Susan Brooks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1030 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Brooks:

Safe Kids Worldwide thanks you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 5329, the bipartisan *Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2018*. This legislation would reauthorize the Poison Center Program for an additional five years as well as critical use of the toll-free Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222. We join with 31 Safe Kids coalitions in 23 states in support of H.R. 5329.

The network of 55 poison control centers provides our nation with **free**, 24/7 access to expert medical advice. The Poison Help toll-free lines receive approximately 3 million calls annually that cover substances, ranging from prescription and over-the-counter medications, cosmetics, e-cigarette liquid nicotine, to pesticides, and exposure to animal bites and stings. Young children make up more than half of the millions of exposures each year. Today its work is especially critical because of the opioid crisis, which is why it is vital that this program is reauthorized by Congress.

The mission of Safe Kids is to prevent unintentional childhood injuries, the leading cause of death for children in the United States. Poison centers help prevent these tragedies and are vital to parents as a critical public-private partnership of the U.S. health care system. When a poisoning occurs in the United States or its territories, having a single national toll-free number, 1-800-222-1222, ensures access to the remarkable shared expertise of our nation's 55 poison control centers. In addition, they are cost effective, saving more than \$1.8 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity. Tax dollars are saved every time a poison exposure is resolved by phone as opposed to an expensive, Medicaid-funded emergency room visit.

Safe Kids Worldwide has long been an advocate for the poison center network and we strongly support efforts to continue this valuable program. We also thank Representatives Eliot Engel, Joe Barton, Diana DeGette, Ben Ray Luján and Michelle Lujan Grisham for their sponsorship and support of H.R. 5329. We stand ready to assist you and your colleagues in ensuring passage of this measure. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Safe Kids Worldwide Public Policy Associate Amy Reich at 202-662-4471 or [areich@safekids.org](mailto:areich@safekids.org).

Sincerely,

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Safe Kids Alabama

**Alaska**

Safe Kids Alaska

**California**

Safe Kids California

Safe Kids Central California

**Colorado**

Safe Kids Colorado

Safe Kids Colorado Springs

Safe Kids Denver Metro

**Illinois**

Safe Kids Illinois

Safe Kids Chicago

**Indiana**

Safe Kids Indiana

Safe Kids Bartholomew County

**Kansas**

Safe Kids Kansas

**Louisiana**

Safe Kids Louisiana

**Massachusetts**

Safe Kids Massachusetts

**Minnesota**

Safe Kids Minnesota

**Montana**

Safe Kids Missoula

**Nevada**

Safe Kids Clark County

**New Mexico**

Safe Kids New Mexico

**New York**

Safe Kids New York State

Safe Kids Nassau County

Safe Kids Queens

**North Carolina**

Safe Kids Guilford County

**Ohio**

Safe Kids Ohio

Safe Kids Summit County

**Rhode Island**

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**South Carolina**

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