

WASHINGTON- The House of Representatives and Senate have passed the Poison Center Support, Enhancement and Awareness Act of 2008. Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) is an original co-sponsor of this important bill. This legislation provides the funding needed to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and state grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention.

**"National Poison Control Centers save lives and taxpayer dollars. Last year Poison Control centers in the U.S. responded to 4 million calls. These centers are a critical component of the public health system and provide urgent medical advice to the communities they serve," said Congressman Terry.**

Poisoning is the second leading form of unintentional death in the United States and an estimated sixty percent of those exposures are experienced by children under the age of six. Calls received by the poison control centers address chemical, biological and nuclear exposure, as well as adverse reactions to pesticides, cleaning products and other hazardous products. As a result of the medical advice given over the phone, millions of Medicaid and Medicare dollars are saved because patients don't need to go to hospital emergency rooms

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The Poison Center in Omaha is the designated center for Nebraska, Wyoming, American Samoa, and Federated States of Micronesia.

