



American Association of Poison Control Centers

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **American Association of Poison Control Centers Commends Senate Passage of S. 1199, the Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2019**

**Alexandria, VA** – The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) applauds Senate passage of S. 1199, the Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2019.

S. 1199 reauthorizes federal funding for the nation's 55 poison control centers through FY 2024. Federal dollars currently comprise approximately 15% of funding for poison control centers, an important source to keep poison control centers' vital services free of charge and open 24/7.

"Poison control centers are on the frontlines of major public health emergencies and epidemics," said Stephen Kaminski, JD, AAPCC's Chief Executive Officer. "For example, centers managed 28,585 cases of opioid misuse and abuse during the first six months of this year." Poison control also serves a critical public health role after natural disasters and for dangerous exposures to substances as diverse as liquid laundry packets, synthetic cannabinoids, e-cigarettes, marijuana, and carbon monoxide. In addition, centers assist first responders and hospital personnel, conduct surveillance to identify emerging drugs of abuse, and deliver countless hours of educational outreach.

S. 1199 ensures that poison control centers and their specially-trained physicians, nurses, and pharmacists can continue to provide these and other critical services. AAPCC would like to thank the bill's sponsors, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), for their support and assistance in overseeing Senate passage of S. 1199.

The Senate passed S. 1199 on July 22, 2019, by a voice vote. AAPCC reminds the public that in case of potential poison exposure, call the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222. To save the number in your phone, text POISON to 797979. Poison experts are available 24/7 and advice is free of charge. Please visit [aapcc.org](http://aapcc.org) to receive more information on emerging hazards.

**Web:** [www.aapcc.org](http://www.aapcc.org)

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**About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)**

AAPCC supports the nation's 55 poison control center members in their efforts to treat and prevent exposures to drugs, consumer products, animal venom, environmental hazards and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline (1-800-222-1222), a service that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians and poison information providers. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979.**