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House of Representatives

Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Illinois Poison Center

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROSKAM: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Illinois Poison Center (IPC), the oldest poison center in the United States. Their services in poison treatment and prevention have made the Illinois Poison Center a great contributor to the Illinois emergency medical community.

Increased awareness of the potential dangers of over the counter and prescription medications as well as common household products is a crucial step toward better poison safety and prevention, especially for children. Nearly half of the 77,000 poisonings reported to the Illinois Poison Center last year involved children under the age of five. Most of these cases could be prevented by greater awareness of potential risks posed by household substances. The Illinois Poison Center has proven its dedication to educating the citizens of Illinois in better poison prevention.

Thanks to its trained medical staff, the Illinois Poison Center treats over 90 percent of calls reporting poisoning over the phone, reducing the need for doctor's visits and emergency room care.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing March 2013 as Poison Prevention Month in Illinois, and in commending the Illinois Poison Center on 6 decades of excellence in poison education and treatment to the State of Illinois.

Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress