FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Experts to Testify on Illinois Poison Center’s $52 Million Dollar Annual Return on Investment

Proposed SB2674 will remove Illinois Poison Center from General Revenue Fund in 2015

Springfield, IL- On Wednesday, May 14, Illinois Poison Center (IPC) Operations Director Carols DesLauriers, Pharm.D., DABAT, and the IPC’s longest serving staff member, Tony Burda, R.Ph, CSPI, DABAT, will testify on the organization’s cost and lifesaving services to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. Burda, who has been with the IPC for 33 years, and 22 other toxicology experts handle 82,000 calls to the IPC each year, providing an annual $52 million dollar return on the state’s $1.33 million dollar investment.

With the state’s only poison center facing closure in less than 50 days, proposed bill SB2674, which passed the Illinois Senate with an overwhelming 43-13 majority, would provide the necessary funding to keep the IPC operational and allow it to transition out of the General Revenue Fund (GRF) and provide 911 call centers across the state with an increase in dedicated funding.

“We are hopeful the Illinois House of Representatives will pass SB2674, allowing us to move out of the GRF after next year,” said IPC Medical Director Michael Wahl, M.D., FACEP, FACMT. “SB2674 saves the state’s only poison center from closure and saves much needed resources for other health and emergency response organizations. It is a win for all.”

Close to 50 percent of calls to the IPC involve children five years old and younger. The IPC prevents an estimated 35,000 emergency department visits each year, reduces length of stay for patients admitted to the hospital by one to three days, and by treating 90 percent of cases at home, the IPC’s services frees up ambulances and other resources for more critically injured patients.

For more information on the IPC’s funding efforts, please click here.

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