

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1054

By: Boyd (Laura) and Monson of
the House

and

Lawler of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the contribution of the Oklahoma Poison Control Center to Oklahoma and recommending that new housing or governance be found for the Center; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Children's Hospital of Oklahoma has operated the Oklahoma Poison Control Center since 1978; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Poison Control Center provides information and assistance to the public, police and fire departments, business, hospital emergency rooms, other emergency medical personnel, telephone operators, health professionals and educators concerning prevention and management of potentially toxic exposures, public education, referrals and poison prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Poison Control Center provides information in human poison exposures (accidental and intentional), animal poisoning exposures, workplace exposures, industrial chemical contamination, environmental and health hazards, and drug abuse information; and

WHEREAS, the exposure information is provided with a toll-free 24-hour telephone number; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Poison Control Center provides emergency information to the public free of charge; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 the Oklahoma Poison Control Center received 40,663 calls regarding poison exposures and information regarding management of toxic exposures, referrals and education; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent survey, 85% of human poisoning exposures are managed at home without an emergency room visit; and

WHEREAS, the Center has an annual budget of about \$275,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of each case handled by the Center was \$6.50 compared with costs of more than \$19.00 per case at poison control centers in Louisiana and south Texas; and

WHEREAS, it has been confirmed that because of the budgetary constraints of Children's Hospital of Oklahoma and that the Oklahoma Poison Control Center is not a requirement of the hospital's teaching mission, funding for the Center was not included in the hospital's budget for the 1994 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, without public access to such services, health care resources may be wasted on unnecessary emergency room and physician office visits; and

WHEREAS, when poison services were temporarily eliminated in Louisiana, and Louisiana citizens were without access to an instate emergency number, emergency room visits and health care costs were greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, the loss of the Oklahoma Poison Control Center will make Oklahoma the only state without public access to poison information services; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the Center will be a tremendous loss to each Oklahoma citizen; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the outstanding contributions of the Oklahoma Poison Control Center to Oklahoma citizens, and the many and varied services provided by the Center.

THAT because the short-term monetary gain from closing the Center will be offset by the increased cost associated with the unnecessary use of health care resources and possible loss of life, the Oklahoma Legislature recommends a new housing or governance be found for the Oklahoma Poison Control Center, so that the center can continue to serve the citizens of this state.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the executive director and governance of Children's Hospital of Oklahoma, the Governor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

44-1-7092

KSM