

Statement for Rep. Eliot Engel
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Markup of H.R. 3527 and H.R. 1098
Subcommittee on Health
December 10, 2013

Last month, Representative Lee Terry and I, along with our Senate colleagues Patty Murray and Richard Burr, introduced the Poison Center Network Act. This legislation reauthorizes the national toll-free number, media campaign and grant program which have helped make poison control centers a very successful public health program for the citizens in each of our states.

In my home state of New York, we have two poison centers, which between the two of them, field over 164,000 calls a year.

While a visit to the emergency room can cost hundreds of dollars and a hospitalization can cost thousands, a phone call to a poison control center only costs the government around \$30 which proves poison centers continue to be a smart public health investment.

Thank you Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Waxman, Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone for allowing this important legislation to come before the Subcommittee today.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.