

The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “National Poison Prevention Week” of the William J. Baroody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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National Poison Prevention Week, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The future of America is in our children. For 13 years, National Poison Prevention Week has been an annual landmark in the ongoing campaign to protect the young children, our country's greatest resource, from the tragedies of childhood poisonings.

The average American home contains a growing variety of labor-saving devices, chemical products, and medicines. We can be proud of the skill and initiative that have made this progress possible. Yet, every thoughtful citizen must be aware that these household products and drugs which ease our daily life, in many instances, are potentially poisonous if used unwisely or stored so carelessly that small children can get to them.

Our challenge as educators, as parents, and as citizens is to strive to reduce the toll of childhood poisoning through adequate programs of public education and information. These programs should develop an awareness of the potential danger associated with many products in the home environment.

Since 1970, the Poison Prevention Packaging Act has contributed substantially to reducing the number of harmful accidental intakes and subsequent injuries and fatalities among children under five. Poisoning reports for aspirin, the product most frequently involved in childhood intake and deaths, have shown a marked decrease since requirements were established under the Act for child-resistant packaging. In order to give further recognition and emphasis to the need to reduce this tragic toll, the Congress has by a joint resolution of September 26, 1961 (75 Stat. 681), requested that the President of the United States annually issue a Proclamation declaring the third week in March as National Poison Prevention Week.

NOW THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 16, 1975, as National Poison Prevention Week.

I invite all agencies and organizations concerned with preventing accidental poisoning among our Nation's children to engage in activities that will speed our Nation's progress in protecting all our children against lasting injury or death from accidental poisoning.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford



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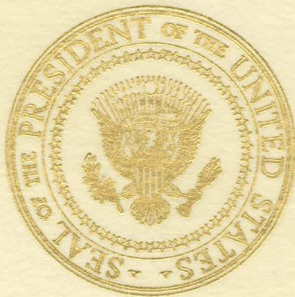
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A Proclamation

The life of a child is precious. The loss of even one child is tragic. Yet each year accidental poisonings cause too many of our Nation's children to suffer illness and injury from which they may never recover.

As every parent knows, children are by nature inquisitive. They are explorers and experimenters. It is our responsibility not only to teach them the dangers that poisonous substances present, but to provide them with a safe environment. Special packaging required under the provisions of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 plays a major role in achieving this aim. Data recently released by the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that in the year since aspirin products were first required to be kept in safety packaging, the number of deaths among children under five from aspirin poisoning declined 48 percent.

While these developments are encouraging, they provide no excuse for a relaxation of concern or vigilance. During 1974, over 200,000 accidental ingestions of household substances were reported by poison control centers through out the country. Approximately 130,000 involved children under five years of age. But these reports may represent only a fraction of the actual number of toxic episodes. Medical authorities estimate that each year 600,000 to one million children accidentally swallow substances which may be harmful—or even deadly.

Recognizing the need to encourage all Americans to take preventive measures to eliminate accidental poisonings and their tragic toll, the Congress, by joint resolution of September 26, 1961 (36 U.S.C. 165), has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the third week in March as National Poison Prevention Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning March 21, 1976, as National Poison Prevention Week. I urge all Americans to provide safety for our Nation's youngsters by storing, using, and handling household substances with care. I invite all organizations concerned with preventing accidental poisoning among children to join in activities that will assist in protecting all our children from these dangers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

Gerald R. Ford



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