

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:
Dee Klingaman



Date: 3/12/07 Bill Number: ~~7279~~ 7292

TO: Education Committee
FROM: Dee Klingaman
American Heart Association Volunteer
Oxford, Connecticut
SUBJECT: House Bill 7279 - An Act Concerning CPR Training and Automatic External
Defibrillators
DATE: March 12, 2007

My name is Dee Klingaman and I am a resident in the town of Oxford, CT. Not everyone knows this, but heart disease is the number cause of death for both men and women in Connecticut it claims nearly **11,000 CT residents' lives annually.**

I am urging you to support **HB 7279 - AN ACT CONCERNING CPR Training and AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS** so that we can take measures to reduce the number of lives lost and provide more Connecticut residents with an opportunity to survive. AEDs placed in schools, AED training, and CPR training can save lives by providing a second chance to those requiring emergency care.

This legislation would require education that may lead to certification in CPR as part of the health curriculum in schools, and require that there be automatic external defibrillators and persons trained to use such defibrillators at athletic events at high schools.

For the last two years, I have been working to help women of the Valley community learn of the risks and symptoms of heart disease through the American Heart Association and the AHA Go Red for Women campaign. By sharing my personal experiences to help others understand the true cost of heart disease and also to understand that there are many things that can be done to prevent cardiac deaths and to help postpone the onset of heart disease.

My family learned first hand the cost of premature heart disease within our family when we lost our mother to a stroke and then our brother to a heart attack. Because of my age, BP, weight, cholesterol, non-smoking and physical condition I was not considered the profile for someone to have a heart attack. Since I found herself a heart attack survivor nearly two years ago, I actively work to help educate and motivate women and men to learn about and to fight heart disease. I received the gift of life when I had two stents placed in my heart. I understand that the stents would not have been possible without the forward thinking of those who took action that supported funding and research. Not everyone gets a second chance.

Today, I am asking you to take action and provide a second chance to CT residents by providing for AED's and CPR training in schools and persons trained to use such defibrillators at athletic events at high schools.

AEDs in schools and persons trained in the use of AEDs as well as CPR training in schools will help save lives. We need your help.

Sincerely,

Dee Klingaman