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American Heart Association CPR/AED Instructor, RN, BSN  
House Bill 7292: An Act Concerning CPR Training and Automated External  
Defibrillators  
Education Committee

Testimony:

Statistics:

- Approximately 350,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest every year
- More than 50,000 deaths could have been prevented if someone had initiated the Cardiac Chain of Survival and an automated external defibrillator had been available
- In the time you have finished this testimony sudden cardiac arrest will have taken another life

Cost of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED): \$1000.00-\$3,000 per unit.

Value of a Life: Priceless

Currently, every Connecticut coach is required to obtain:

- 1) First Aid Certification
- 2) CPR Certification

AED training for these coaches can be included in their bi-annual training adding only one more hour to the certification process. Maintenance of the AED requires 2 minutes per day to assure proper functioning of the device. Once coaches are certified emergency personnel would then not be needed to attend athletic events with AED present saving money and medical resources.

Liability: Good Samaritan Laws- The Connecticut General Statute 52-557b (2000) protects rescuers from legal repercussions in the event that they inadvertently make a mistake in treating a victim. This statute provides immunity for rescuers and encourages/requires CPR & AED training to American Heart Association or American Red Cross standards.

Education leading to certification in CPR:

Choices offered by the American Heart Association (AHA) regarding CPR certification include:

- Heartsaver or Heartsaver AED courses- AHA Instructor lead class
- Heartsaver AED Anytime course: Video-lead classes can be used with one person or large group of people. Requires AHA Instructor to come evaluate skills within 60 days of watching/practicing with video.

Automated External Defibrillators should be available at all sporting events, not just for children or young adults, but also for coaches, spectators and families who attend these sporting events. On February 27, 2007, Texas Senate Education Committee approved the measure to require all Texas schools to have at least one AED on each campus. They are required to be on hand during athletic events on school campuses. I am hopeful that we can follow Texas' lead and offer the same life-saving devices in schools and at all athletic events.

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:

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Date:

3/12/07

Bill Number:

7292