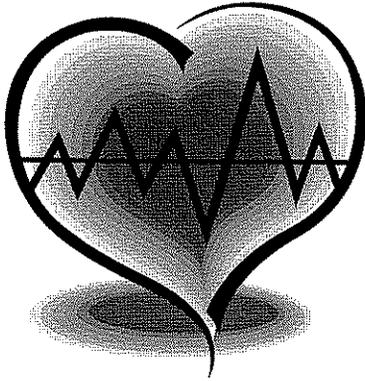


# CPR O HEART, LLC



Name: Catherine B. DiMeola, Tolland, Ct. 06084

Credentials: American Heart Association Training Center,  
NREMT-B, NREMS-I  
Member Tolland Fire Department, Special Projects  
Member Willington Fire Department, Active Member  
Full Time Educator

Bill and Number: SB 1339 AN ACT REQUIRING AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (schools and public buildings)

Committee Name: Public Health Committee  
Statement:

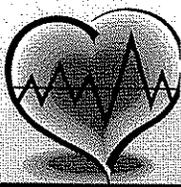
I strongly support and urge the Connecticut legislation to be *proactive* and pass this bill for the residents of this state. I have spent most of my adult career in teaching lay responder how to strengthen the cardiac Chain of Survival, by learning CPR and using an AED if one is available.

In April of 2002, I had the privilege of providing testimony before the NYC Dept of Education and Public Safety on their bill to provide AED's in the schools of the 5 boroughs. These hearings were intensely emotional, as 5 children had lost their lives in the preceding 6 weeks due to SCA and the lack of AED's in the schools. I urge you to avoid having to see and live through this heartache but enacting HB1339. The bill was passed in May 2002.

I know that there is support for AED's in the schools. Over 100 Citizens of the community of Tolland have volunteered to take CPR and AED training in the next 60 days as part of our commitment to a HeartSafe Community. This is the initial step toward full implementation of AED's in our schools. We need SB1339 to be passed to complete our goal of leaving no child unsafe while at school.

Every Parent in every community deserves to know that if their child is the victim Sudden Cardiac Arrest at school, an AED is immediately available. Staff deserves to know that their workplace is safe. Parents and grandparents visiting deserve to know that an AED will help save their life. Our EMS system depends heavily on volunteers and every EMS system is tormented by the fact that we can't get volunteers. We must place AED's in the public where access is immediately available to lay responders and bystanders.

Thank you.  
Catherine B. DiMeola



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