



THE NORWICH FREE ACADEMY

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Mark E. Cohan, Ph.D.

Superintendent / Head of School

March 14, 2008

TO: Members of the Judiciary Committee
FROM: Teri E. Bruce, Director of Student Services, Norwich Free Academy
RE: Raised Bill Number 687, An Act Concerning Automatic External Defibrillators

Hello Senator McAndrew, Representative Lawlor, and members of the Judiciary Committee. As the Director of Student Services at Norwich Free Academy, I have witnessed the tragedy that can occur due to cardiac arrest. I want to thank you for raising this important piece of legislation. The passage of AED legislation is instrumental in making sure that individuals throughout Connecticut will be better protected in the event of cardiac emergency.

The National Conference of State Legislatures notes that "recent state laws encourage broader availability, rather than creating new regulatory restrictions." (retrieved from <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/aed.htm>, March 10, 2008) The proposed language regarding removing liability barriers is in accordance with actions being taken by other state legislatures.

I support the provisions of the proposed legislation that removes liability from a person or entity in the event of AED usage under provision of state law. This is important for municipalities, independent schools such as Norwich Free Academy, and other entities to be protected from liability if the necessity of AED usage arises.

I want to thank you for your consideration of Bill 687 so that AEDs can become more readily available in communities across Connecticut.

Thank you.

Teri E. Bruce

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