



THE NORWICH FREE ACADEMY

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Mark E. Cohan, Ph.D.

Superintendent / Head of School

March 10, 2008

TO: Members of the Public Health Committee
FROM: Teri E. Bruce, Director of Student Services, Norwich Free Academy
RE: House Bill 5812, An Act Concerning the Availability of Automatic External Defibrillators for Public Use

Hello Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, and members of the Public Health 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)

A concern exists regarding potential liability for entities that supply AED's for public usage. It 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 would hope that the Legislature will consider amending the Connecticut Good Samaritan Statute to include protections to such parties.

I want to thank you for your consideration of House Bill 5812 as well as encourage you to consider amendments to the Good Samaritan Statute.

Thank you.

Teri E. Bruce

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