

To: Public Health Committee

From: Sherri Hopkins, RN  
Naugatuck, CT

Re: House Bill 5812, An Act Concerning the Availability of Automated External Defibrillators for Public Use

March 10, 2008

Good Afternoon. I want to thank the Public Health Committee for addressing the issue of Public Access to Automated External Defibrillators.

Who I am: Registered Nurse, CPR/AED/First Aid Instructor

My objectives:

- Attain HEARTSafe Community status for Naugatuck and surrounding towns
- AED/CPR education to teachers and students in all schools in CT
- AED availability at all high school sporting events
- EXPAND the Good Samaritan Law to cover the OWNER and PRESCRIBER of the AED

Obstacles:

- Funding: Section 3 states that municipalities that attain HEARTSafe status would be eligible for state grant funding. Please consider opening funding applications to ALL municipalities. For example: Naugatuck has a population of 32,000 residents. According to the Public Health Dept's Naugatuck would need 12 AEDs to qualify for HEARTSafe status. The municipalities *seeking* HEARTSafe communities need the funding the most. I have spent almost one year speaking to parent groups in Naugatuck. So far we have raised funds for 6 AEDs. If we had access to grants specific for acquiring AEDs, Naugatuck would be a HEARTSafe Community today.
- Good Samaritan Law needs some revision to cover the OWNER and PRESCRIBER (any entity) involved with obtaining the AED. We need universal Good Samaritan Protection for any entity involved with the AED. Present and future bills pertaining to AEDs may be shelved due to the current wording of the Bill
- Lengthly process to develop a protocol for the use of AEDs. Please consider the development of a universal statewide policy so that once an establishment chooses to obtain an AED, the establishment will have a reliable statewide, consistent policy which the Judicial Committee and Public Health Committee agrees on.

Attached is a review of HEARTSafe Community Guidelines. Funds granted to municipalities *seeking* HEARTSafe status would be immensely helpful. Thank You for allowing me the opportunity to speak on HB 5812.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Hopkins RN, BSN