

February 27, 2009

In regards to: Seneate Bill 981 for AED's in Schools

Public Health Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Room 1D  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Attention: Jonathan Harris and Elizabeth Ritter

Dear Public Health Committee,

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF BILL



Children here in Connecticut are at significant risk of not surviving Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Unlike several neighboring states, we do not have Defibrillators in all of our schools. If one of our children were to have a bad event, much time would be lost while waiting for emergency response to arrive with an AED. During that precious time, they are at risk of brain injury. Also, the probability of saving them drops by the second.

My daughter Katelyn has attended public schools for over 3 ½ years. Each year we have had her tested for an inherited heart condition called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. This disease takes the lives of children and teens, many times without the parents knowing they had the condition. Her school now has an AED to protect her, only after her diagnosis in late December.

The AED was brought to her school after it was no longer needed at another school across town. The device was originally purchased as part of a 504 accommodation plan for a boy with the same condition. It was no longer needed after he died in early December. The boy was Katelyn's brother Tyler, who experienced Sudden Cardiac Arrest in his sleep.

Each day, my wife and I had peace of mind, that our son's school had a device to protect him--should an event occur. There are many thousands of children in this state whose parents do not have this peace of mind. The time is now that we get AED's in the school. Tyler came with me to give similar testimony when he was living. We can not delay this need any further. How would we all feel if one of our children were to die while waiting for a defibrillator to be brought to the school?

Respectfully,

Rand Sean Gingery  
cc: Public Health Committee

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