

To: Public Health Committee

From: Sarah Baumbach, Central Connecticut State University Athletic Training Student
CATA GAC Student Subcommittee member

Re: Raised Bill # 981, An Act Concerning the Availability of Automatic External
Defibrillators in Schools.

Date: February 27, 2009

Good afternoon Representative Ritter, Senator Harris and members of the public health committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you regarding Raised Bill # 981 An Act Concerning the Availability of Automatic External Defibrillators in Schools.

My name is Sarah Baumbach and I am from Watertown, CT. I am an athletic training student at Central Connecticut State University and a Certified EMT. Today I am here to represent the Connecticut Athletic Trainers Association, Governmental Affairs Committee Student Subcommittee.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the **leading** cause of death in the United States. Sudden Cardiac Arrest happens when the heart suddenly stops beating due to ventricular fibrillation. The **most effective** treatment for ventricular fibrillation is with defibrillation from an **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)**. Sudden Cardiac Arrest can happen to people of all ages at any time. That is why it is important to have an AED in schools. There is no prediction of SCA and it needs to be treated with an AED 3-5 minutes after collapse for optimal results. Victims are usually beyond help after 10-12 minutes. It takes about 15 minutes for an ambulance to arrive in most cases, that is unfortunately too late.

Being an athletic training student at Central Connecticut State University and a certified EMT has taught me how important it is to have an AED in the Athletic Training Facility, at games, and at practice coverage. SCA is also the leading cause of death in athletes. The athlete's health and well being is our top priority. We take pride knowing we provide the best care that we can give, and having an AED in our possession assures us of that.

An AED is indispensable and should be put in every school in the state of Connecticut. The health and safety of students and faculty are being compromised by not having schools equipped with an AED. Yes, it is costly to put an AED in every school and train individuals to use the device, but the cost of a life is priceless.

In closing, every school in Connecticut needs an AED. There is no excuse as to why there is not an AED in schools today. Death could be prevented with just one piece of equipment.

Sincerely,

Sarah Baumbach