



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE ED JUTILA**  
37<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4046  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 860-739-7730  
CAPITOL: 860-842-8267  
E-MAIL: Ed.Jutila@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

VICE CHAIRMAN  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**Testimony of State Representative Ed Jutila**  
**in Support of HB 6266 AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL**  
**DEFIBRILLATORS IN HEALTH CLUBS**

**General Law Committee Public Hearing**

**Thursday, February 24, 2011**

Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak, Members of the General Law Committee, for the record my name is Ed Jutila, State Representative for the 37<sup>th</sup> District, which includes the towns of East Lyme and Salem. I am here today in support of HB 6266 An Act Concerning Automatic External Defibrillators in Health Clubs. First let me thank the committee for raising this bill and providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Back in 2007, when I served on the committee I had introduced similar legislation at the behest of a constituent of mine, Christopher Barrett of Niantic who has been a strong advocate. Mr. Barrett serves on the Board of Directors of his local health club, which obtained an AED without any requirement to do so.

Since then we have come a long way in raising awareness and passing legislation to show just how important the use of defibrillators can be when it comes to saving lives. Over the past couple of years we have passed Public Act 09-94, which helps increase the availability of AEDs in schools and also personnel trained to use them. We also passed PA-09-59, which extends immunity to those who in good faith use an AED in an attempt to save a life. I believe that extending the availability of AEDs in health clubs this year would be a logical next step, particularly given the elevated risk when individuals exercise at high levels.

Studies have repeatedly shown the importance immediate use of a defibrillator can have in improving survival rates of victims of cardiac arrest. Survival rates have been known to increase by 50% or more. The immediate availability of an AED is even more crucial in places such as health clubs where elevated heart rates and extra stress on the heart are known to occur.

Again thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions members of the committee may have.