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Association of School Nurses of Connecticut  
Raised Bill No. 1050

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS  
IN CERTAIN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS***

To: Members of the Public Health Committee

I am a registered nurse, a school nursing supervisor for West Haven Schools, a CPR instructor for the American Heart Association, and the child of a sudden cardiac arrest parent, my father who died at the age of 48. That occurred in 1974, long before AED's.

It appears that I am mistaken to expect that such devices are already in place in these facilities. If my expectations were correct, there would be no reason to create this legislation.

I could quote statistics and documentation that AED's save lives but I believe my credentials, my professional expertise, and especially my personal experience qualify me to support Raised Bill No. 1050. Access to AED's in the facilities you mention is certainly a "no-brainer". Staff in such facilities should be trained to respond to emergencies, including sudden cardiac arrest and life threatening situations.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Raised Bill No. 1050.

Amendment to

SB 981. AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL  
DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS.

The primary issue with this legislation is *“school personnel trained in the operation of an automatic external defibrillator and the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall be accessible during school sponsored events not occurring during the normal operational hours of the school.”*

This legislation, although well intended has created a financial and liability burden on school districts already struggling with economic and educational issues. The intent of the legislation to have AED’s in districts has had the opposite effect. School districts opt out because of the difficulties associated with the law as written.

AED’s were designed to be a public access device. For that reason, I urge you to consider an amendment to SB 981 and eliminate:

*“school personnel trained in the operation of an automatic external defibrillator and the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall be accessible during school sponsored events not occurring during the normal operational hours of the school.”*

And replace it with:

*“during school sponsored events not occurring during the normal operational hours of the school, the AED serves as a public access device.”*

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna Kosiorowski RN*