



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

*Learn and Live.*

**Transportation Committee**

**February 20, 2012**

**John Bailey, Government Relations Director  
American Heart / Stroke Association**

**Comments H.B. 6054: An Act Requiring Certification in  
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Prior to the Issuance or Renewal of a Motor Vehicle  
Operator's License**

Good Afternoon Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Stillman, Representative Mikutel, and members of the Transportation Committee.

My name is John Bailey, State Director of Government Relations for the American Heart / Stroke Association, and I am here today to comment on H.B. 6054, *An Act Requiring Certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Prior to the Issuance or Renewal of a Motor Vehicle Operator's License*.

The American Heart / Stroke Association applaud all efforts to increase the number of Connecticut residents who are trained in lifesaving CPR.

Of the 383,000 victims of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest each year in the U.S.; only 11 percent survive. In Connecticut, the Center for Disease Control reported that, of the cardiac deaths recorded in our state, 70% of those deaths resulted from sudden cardiac arrest. If given right away, by-standard performed CPR can double and even triple survival rates and significantly reduce these sobering numbers.

The American Heart / Stroke Association released a statement in 2008, citing chest compressions alone, or Hands-Only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), can save lives and can be used to help an adult who suddenly collapses. Hands-Only CPR is a potentially lifesaving option to be used by people not trained in conventional CPR or those who are unsure of their ability to give the combination of chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth breathing it requires.

CPR training can be worked into existing classes. In less time than it takes to watch a 30 minute TV sitcom, students can learn CPR skills and know how to save someone's life. Someone does not need certification to have lifesaving CPR skills.

Conventional CPR is still an important skill to learn, and medical personnel should still perform conventional CPR in the course of their professional duties. The new recommendations apply only to bystanders who come to the aid of adult cardiac arrest victims outside the hospital setting.

In addition, the public is still encouraged to obtain conventional CPR training, where they will learn the skills needed to perform Hands-Only CPR, as well as the additional skills needed to care for a wide range of cardiovascular- and respiratory-related medical emergencies, especially for infants and children.

Again, we applaud the effort of the sponsor of H.B. 6054 and support the principle of identifying new venues and settings to train more people CPR and the use of AED making our communities heart safe.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.