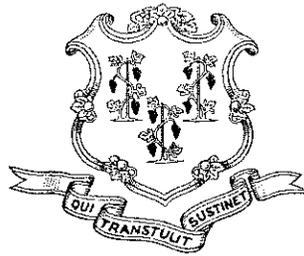


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State of Connecticut

SENATE
11th District

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Good afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Committee on Children. I would like to express my support for SB 229, AN ACT CONCERNING SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a deadly condition in which the heart stops beating; it claims over 2000 lives each year.. It often catches its victims, their parents, and coaches totally by surprise. Immediate treatment can be lifesaving. Even seemingly healthy students may suddenly fall prey to it; it gives no warning. It would be sound public policy to ensure that all student athletes and those who look after them know what signs to look for, and how to respond to this medical emergency should it occur.

I am hopeful that in its final version, SB 229 will include these provisions:

- Require distribution of information to student athletes and their parents on the warning signs, symptoms and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest, with an accompanying disclosure form to sign.
- Provide for creation of a mandatory awareness and education program on sudden cardiac arrest for public school coaches and other staff.
- Require that any student or student athlete who exhibits signs of potential sudden cardiac arrest be immediately removed from athletic activity, not to return pending the approval of a medical professional.

Thank you for raising this important legislation.