

Public Health Committee

Senate Bill 684

February 23, 2015

Andrew Bindelglass

First I would like to thank the Public Health Committee for taking on this very important bill and for the opportunity to testify in its support.

My name is Andrew Bindelglass. I am currently a sophomore at Tufts University, and I attended Joel Barlow High School in Redding, Connecticut. I am also a certified CPR provider. During my junior year of high school, my health class dedicated class time to teaching and certifying myself and fellow classmates in CPR and BLS skills.

Having CPR and Basic Life Support skills included in the general health curriculum is simply invaluable. As a high school student, I know I never had adequate time to take one of the CPR courses offered at my local community center on weekends for example, whilst also dealing with school, homework, sports, and other extracurricular activities. Thus, I would have missed out on an opportunity to learn these simple but incredibly powerful skills.

I was lucky enough to attend a school where CPR and BLS was a part of the health curriculum. By taking class time I was able to learn and be certified in many aspects of CPR, choking victims, and some first aid. My health program allowed myself and the other members of my class to become that much more capable to help others in medical distress, without compromising the rest of our busy schedules. Making BLS a mandated part of health curriculums would allow even more young men and women to learn these potentially life-saving skills, skills that far too many of them do not possess currently.

Because of the training I received, I feel extremely confident that I would be able to make a positive difference in a potentially deadly situation. I admittedly would have never even thought to take the time to learn these skills and to become certified, but, having now gone through this training, absolutely recognize the importance of these skills and have maintained my certifications every two years. I also feel much more secure in my town and my community knowing that so many of the people around me have gone through the same training and could potentially help save my life, just as I could do for them.

I would have liked to have presented my testimony in person today, but unfortunately was not able to make the trip down from Boston.

Thank you, Andrew Bindelglass