

To whom it may concern;

The purpose of this email is to speak in favor of **HB 684, AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION.**

When I first sat down to compose this email I thought about trying to approach the problem from a statistical angle. I could begin by discussing in depth the fact that sudden cardiac arrest is now the leading cause of death in American society and its instances are only on the rise as America become unhealthier and unhealthy. Then I thought perhaps I could share my personal stories of a decade long career as a professional firstresponder and talk about the number of times I have personally witnessed bystander CPR save a persons life. Along that same line however, I could share with you the more staggering number of times a lack of early intervention caused the patient to not survive their cardiac event, even when it was witnessed, often by family. However I felt that you would probably be inundated by emails making those same fine points, I feel strongly that those points alone warrant the passing of this bill but I'd like to take just a moment and highlight for you my own personal experiences with the knowledge gleaned in my formal education and it's relative carryover to real life. When I graduated high school, with honors I might add, I had an understanding of the Pythagorean theorem and an in-depth knowledge of the French Revolution. However when I got my first loan I had to turn to the Internet to learn how interest rates worked. Despite four years of world geography and social studies reading a roadmap was foreign to many of my classmates. Now I'm certainly not saying that the above mentioned topics are not important or relevant, but I do question there carryover to the real world. We ask our young people as they are completing their formal education process to absorb so much knowledge in the hopes that we are giving them the tools to be a stronger society in the future, but many of the topics and areas of intense focus in high school will never carry over to their life in the real world. What myself and many of my fellow first responders know about the real world is that without rapid intervention during a cardiac crisis, death is a certainty. So if we acknowledge the statistical fact that the future generations of young people graduating high school will invariably find themselves faced with a cardiac crisis not as a matter of if, but rather of when, it's almost irresponsible of us not give them the tools needed to save the life of a family member, or perhaps even a complete stranger. As a child who lost his father at an early age I beg and implore you to pass this bill. Throughout my career I have witnessed so much tragedy befall good people, some of which could have been prevented if the knowledge was there immediately at the time of their medical crisis. With the average time commitment for an American Heart Association CPR training program being approximately four hours I'll leave you with this one rhetorical question; how can we not give this tool to future generations moving forward into society, because for all any of us know their quick thinking and training may in fact save one of our lives someday.

Respectfully submitted,

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