

Ron Koprek
Cardiac Survivor

A greeting to the committee members, my name is Ron Koprek and my wife Susan. We live in Ellington CT. and we firmly support the Senate Bill 684.

They say that I'm a miracle and I am, but I had a great deal of help from my wife, neighbors and ambulance volunteers on the day I died.

On June 24th my wife and I took our daily walk in the Woodside Acres area near our home and upon our return in the pouring rain on our front lawn, I went down with a massive heart attack. My wife seeing me go down screamed for help and fortunately my neighbors were across the street and came to help immediately.

My neighbor Micheal Weiner and her son Caleb helped turn me over and started CPR while he called 911 and then went down the street to a resident state trooper who came to my assistance with more equipment to help resuscitate me.

The ambulance crew responded within 5 minutes and took over and worked on me. I'm told that they used the resuscitators 6 times on me. I was taken to Rockville Hospital where I was somewhat stabilized and then transported to Saint Francis Hospital. There they found that one of my Angio Seal's that was put in me 10 years ago had collapsed and they need to go in and repair it. The Doctors and Nurses told my wife and son's that I had about a 10% chance of making it and not to get their hopes up too high.

But I survived and I'm here writing this letter with pleasure to tell you all that I am so grateful to everyone that helped me that day, I'm truly a lucky man and my wife Susan echoes the same thoughts. As she explained, she watched me take my last breath and when they were working on me thoughts of being a widow went through her head. All that helped gave my wife her husband and son's their father back. I am forever grateful to all.

Having said all of that, when I heard of the plan to require students in High School to learn CPR, I was excited and more than happy to tell my story. Just those learning the basics when someone goes down can mean the difference between life and death as was my case.

I would like to say this that the BOY Caleb a High School student across the street had something happen that day, he turned into a fine young MAN. And now has aspirations to help others. What happened to me that day was so bad, but it affected so many others in a good way. Since this happened, many of my neighbors want to learn CPR, why not start the students off right where they may help save someone's life or even a family member.

Sincerely,
Ron Koprek