

Support **HB-5365**: An Act Concerning Legal Protections for Persons Entering Cars to Render
Emergency Assistance to Children

I am writing to encourage legislators to approve house bill 5365, An Act Concerning Legal Protections for Persons Entering Cars to Render Emergency Assistance to Children.

I worked with Rep. Carpino to raise this bill for consideration. As an Emergency Medical Technician for 36 years, I have responded to emergencies for decades and I have seen the difference bystanders can make when they take quick and appropriate actions. I am also a safety consultant and trainer, working with employers to put safety procedures and protocols in place to reduce or eliminate hazards, injuries and deaths. This bill makes sense from both medical and safety standpoints.

Tragedies have occurred across our state and across our country, where infants or children have died or been seriously injured because they were left in hot cars. Temperatures climb quickly to deadly levels in cars, and time is critical to remove the child from the oven-like vehicle. Temperature changes affect children more quickly and more severely than adults. Bystanders who could rescue a child may fear legal liability, and may fail to act to save a life. This bill would remove that fear, when there is a reasonable belief a child is in imminent danger. Waiting for a response from police may be too long of a wait, with deadly results.

There are other situations the bill may apply to as well, such as a child left in a vehicle in extreme cold conditions.

The Good Samaritan laws allow bystanders to confidently apply an AED or administer CPR to a stranger, without fear of liability. I have personally seen many instances where Good Samaritans made life-saving differences. This bill will put caregivers on notice that others will act to rescue a child left in danger in a car, and will give the public confidence to act when seconds count. I encourage you to pass **HB5365**.

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