



International  
Health, Racquet &  
Sportsclub Association

March 3, 2016

Members of the Joint Committee on General Law,

My name is Joe Moore, President of the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA). IHRSA is the health club and fitness industry's leading trade association, representing 72 businesses located throughout Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 5431 (HB 5431), *An Act Concerning Automatic External Defibrillators And Health Clubs*. IHRSA strongly supports efforts across the country to enact policies that encourage health clubs to install automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in their facilities. IHRSA has long supported policies that promote health clubs to house an AED, so long as the law, or bill, contains necessary liability protections — use and non-use — for club owners and their employees, reasonable staffing requirements for staffed and unstaffed clubs, and adequate time to comply with any new rules.

HB 5431 would encourage health clubs to purchase and maintain an AED and ensure that staff training procedures and placement of the device are in line with the recommendations of the American Heart Association (AHA), with whom IHRSA has worked in multiple states to promote common sense policies. It is our firm belief that no one should be exposed to liability based on the actions of an emergency responder acting in good faith.

HB 5431 would address the concern of many health club operators that they, or their employees, could face harsh punishments if a well-intentioned employee either: misdiagnoses a health club member's condition, and therefore chooses not to use an AED; or panics in an emergency and are unable to use the device. Such a result would be in stark contrast to Good Samaritan statutes that protect and encourage well intentioned responders.

Thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in on this important matter. If the committee would like any information about AEDs in Connecticut health clubs, please contact Tim Sullivan in our office at [ts@ihrsa.org](mailto:ts@ihrsa.org) or (617) 951-0055.

Sincerely,

Joe Moore  
IHRSA CEO & President