DATE

Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi, Chair

Education Committee

1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, California 95814

Support AB 1473: Expanding CPR/AED Training as a High School Graduation Requirement

Dear Assembly Member Muratsuchi:

With upwards of 356,000 people lost annually to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), among them up to 23,000 youth, coupled with a persistently low survival rate of just 10%, it’s time to address this public health crisis by creating a culture of prevention where kids live, learn and play.

It’s long been established that in a cardiac emergency immediate bystander intervention with hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) prior to EMS arrival on average increases survival up to 72%. But studies continue to show that most Americans are unprepared to use either measure. California’s reporting to the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival shows that only ~40% of SCA victims receive bystander CPR and just ~7% a bystander-applied AED.

What’s more, a witnessed sudden cardiac arrest adult or child victim who is Black or Hispanic or is in a Black or Hispanic neighborhood is less likely to receive bystander CPR.

Current state law for CPR training in schools applies to school districts that mandate a health class as a graduation requirement. But the majority of California school districts do not offer a health class, which not only means scores of youth are deprived of these critical life-saving skills, but also presents health equity disparities across the state’s socio-economically diverse school communities.

According to the Whole Child framework, schools play a critical role in not only promoting the health and safety of young people but in establishing lifelong behaviors, which is why AB 1473 seeks to collaborate more comprehensively with schools to advance this public health initiative.

INCLUDE PERSONAL STORY AS APPLICABLE

We can and should do better to equip all youth with this life-saving training so they have the power to not only save a life now, but to eliminate the tragedy of these preventable deaths in their lifetime. AB 1473 will help assure that the next generation of life savers is empowered to learn critical cardiac emergency response skills and apply them in their future families, workplaces and communities.

Sincerely,

NAME

ORGANIZATION