



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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April 5, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5640
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 1473 (Maienschein)—Student CPR/AED Training (Co-Sponsor)

Dear Assemblymember Maienschein:

As California's State Superintendent of Public Instruction, student health and safety are among my top priorities. That is why I am writing as a proud co-sponsor of your bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 1473, which will require instruction in performing compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) as part of health and/or physical education courses. I believe that these emergency response skills will benefit students while in school and sports settings as well as in their future workplaces and communities.

Each year, more than 356,000 people in the United States experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), and with a survival rate of just 10 percent, it is one of the primary causes of death for Americans. An estimated 23,000 of these victims are under the age of eighteen. Furthermore, SCA is the leading cause of death for student athletes. Sports-related SCA accounted for nearly 40 percent of SCAs among young people. AB 1473 will help address this public health crisis by creating a culture of prevention where kids live, learn, and play.

It has long been established that in a cardiac emergency, immediate bystander intervention with hands-only CPR and use of an AED prior to emergency medical arrival increases survival (on average) up to 72 percent. However, studies show that most Americans are unprepared to use either measure. California's reporting to the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival shows that only about 40 percent of SCA victims receive bystander CPR and just 7 percent receive a bystander-applied AED. Even worse: 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.

AB 1473 would expand the instruction of these critical life-saving skills to health and physical education classes as well as to sports teams each season. Schools play a critical role in not only promoting the health and safety of young people but in establishing lifelong behaviors, which is why this bill encourages more comprehensive collaboration with schools to advance this public health initiative.

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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 lifetimes. For these reasons, I am proud to co-sponsor AB 1473. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sara Noceto, Legislative Representative, at 916-639-2378 or SNoceto@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Thurmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" being more prominent than the last name "Thurmond".

Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

TT:md