

Support of the Teaching Children to Save Lives Act of 2011

Dear Representative:

Nearly 300,000 Americans die each year of sudden cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association estimates 40,000 of these lives could be saved each year if more people implemented what it calls the “Chain of Survival,” which includes a prompt call to 911, early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation, and early advanced life support.

I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor “**The Teaching Children to Save Lives Act of 2011**” (H.R.3189), a bill that would provide grants to elementary and secondary schools across the country to offer programs that train students on CPR and AED use.

We have recently seen an increase in the frequency of sudden cardiac arrest among young people, especially student athletes. Unfortunately, most students do not know what to do in the face of such an emergency. While a number of localities have pushed for increased CPR training and public access to defibrillation, only 36 states have a law or curriculum standard encouraging such training in schools.

The Teaching Children to Save Lives Act builds on these efforts by authorizing the Department of Education to award grants to States for public elementary and secondary schools to implement CPR and AED training programs. Schools would use these funds to train teachers and school officials as CPR and AED instructors or work in conjunction with community organizations, such as local fire and police departments, hospitals, parent-teacher associations and others to provide CPR and AED training. The grants could also fund the purchase of AED machines and training materials, such as mannequins.

While AEDs are portable, easy-to-use medical devices that have been deployed in many public areas, too few Americans know how to use them or are comfortable using them. Studies have shown that survival rates can be 34 percent or higher with bystander intervention. The Teaching Children to Save Lives Act will help prevent such tragedies by providing grants to elementary and secondary schools across the country to offer programs that train students on CPR and AED use.

Help us save lives! Please consider co-sponsoring H.R. 3189. To sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Adriane Casalotti in Rep Lois Capps’ office at (202) 225-3601 or adriane.casalotti@mail.house.gov.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
