



To: House Education Committee

From: Oregon Education Association

Date: April 5, 2013

RE: HB 3135 [*CPR Certification Requirements*]

The Oregon Education Association believes schools should be safe havens for both students and employees. Ensuring student's health and safety is a priority for all educators. From the time students enter the school grounds to the time they return home on the bus they are under the care of compassionate and responsible adults who put their safety, well-being and educational attainment first.

We recognize that knowledge and training in CPR helps save lives, including the lives of children. Currently in Oregon, school districts are required to have a response team that is certified in CPR. These individuals are the go-to team if a child is in need of emergency care. However, this also means if a child collapses and needs resuscitation, a school employee who is not a part of the response team, must leave the child to seek help or send another student. During this time precious seconds are lost and the situation can become dire.

Limiting the requirement for CPR certification to only teachers¹ is not fully addressing the problem. Across-the-board and comprehensive action is necessary to ensure no student's life is put at risk.

We believe every adult who interacts with students, including all school employees, parent- teacher volunteers, and coaches should be trained in CPR. Throughout the day a student interacts with a number of adults – on the playground, in the cafeteria, in the gym, on the bus, and in the classroom. Their safety in all circumstances is a priority.

We advocate for:

- Requiring the State Board of Education to develop standards for the education and training of school personnel and volunteers to perform adult, child and infant cardiopulmonary

¹ "Teacher" includes all licensed employees in the public schools or employed by an education service district who have direct responsibility for instruction, coordination of educational programs or supervision or evaluation of teachers and who are compensated for their services from public funds. "Teacher" does not include a school nurse as defined in ORS 342.455.

resuscitation using methods that include compressions and breaths and integrated use of an automated external defibrillator and a process for responding to events that require resuscitating a student. The State Board of Education should consult with the Oregon Health Authority and the American Heart Association in developing these standards.

- Directing school district boards to develop policies and procedures that ensure all school employees are trained and certified in CPR on an ongoing basis. This training should be comprehensive, standardized and of the highest quality.

We applaud the commitment to put student safety at the forefront and appreciate the consideration of an alternative, more comprehensive approach to creating safe school environments.