



Emergency Services Consulting *International*

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To: Representative Sara Gelser and the Education Committee
From: Cynthia March, Chief Operating Office, ESCI
Re: HB 3135
Date: March 18, 2013

Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) expresses support for **House Bill 3135**.

As a consulting firm that provides planning and analysis of public safety systems for first responders, we are interested in communities furthering the dialogue on the importance of helping people live safer lives. An integral consideration in the changing environment surrounding the delivery of the best, most cost-effective emergency services is the importance of community risk reduction. This concept requires members of communities to take an active, educated role in the safety of themselves and their own families; along with the safety of their neighbors and their neighbors' families.

Paramount to providing effective response to communities is the understanding of how improvements in CPR and AED practices have increased the success rates of survival for both adults and children. At ESCI, we have a staff base of prior first responders (fire fighters, paramedics, etc.) who have witnessed, and also experienced, first-hand the life saving benefits of early, informed CPR on children. We believe creating a system that allows the first person that finds an unresponsive child the ability to begin CPR to be of critical importance in saving young lives. The first step in such a system is recognizing that adult CPR and child CPR models are very different. If this difference is not understood in the schools, first, it is likely the community at large will also misunderstand the issue.

While the current media stories on 'Hands Only CPR' have gained a great deal of attention, it is important for everyone who comes in contact with families and children, in particular, to understand the American Heart Association Guidelines. AHA recommends starting CPR (compressions **and** breathing) within the first two minutes (120 seconds) of an emergency incident involving a child (1 to 12 years of age). The quicker those around our children can provide emergency response, the greater the success rate of survival without permanent damage in the event of respiratory arrest. We believe teachers can be an important link in this cycle as the adults who are most involved in our school-age children's lives during their waking hours, and we encourage legislation to provide ways to make CPR training an important skillset required of our teachers. As the Chief Operating Officer of ESCI, as well as the parent of two school-aged children, I ask that you let HB 3135 move on in the process toward a public hearing of the facts. We owe this to our communities and to the children in our school districts. We encourage the Oregon State Legislature to pass House Bill 3135 (CPR for Teachers).

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