



Thursday, April 04, 2013

Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Craig Warden, MD. I am a Pediatric Emergency Physician at OHSU/Doernbecher Children's Hospital and a Medical Director for three fire departments in Clackamas County. I am writing you to fully support House Bill HB 3135 and urge its immediate passage.

HB 3135 would put responders, capable of saving a child, in every Oregon classroom. The first 2 minutes of a respiratory and cardiac arrest are critical. Firefighters and paramedics can't arrive in time except in the rarest of circumstances. The child suffering from choking, allergic reaction, asphyxia, asthma, drowning, etc. needs the immediate oxygen that CPR provides. Without immediate CPR a child suffering respiratory arrest will likely not survive.

CPR pumps oxygen to the heart and brain. The primary etiology of a child's arrest is often due a lack of breathing as opposed to adults where it is usually due to a heart problem first. Due to the respiratory nature of the child's arrest, immediate oxygenation is critical or the child will suffer cardiac arrest and permanent brain damage within the first two minutes (a de-oxygenated form of cardiac arrest that has very poor outcomes).

It is unacceptable that Oregon's public schools don't require CPR training for all teachers who will be the first to observe any medical illness in a child in the school setting. The current guidelines for Oregon's public schools requires that the teacher leaves the child to get a response team. Response teams are appropriate for sudden cardiac arrest but not for respiratory arrest. According to the American Heart Associations current CPR guidelines the rescuer should never leave the child in the first two minutes of the child's arrest but they should provide CPR including artificial respirations. The response team guidelines set by the Department of Education are in conflict with the American Heart Associations child CPR guidelines that would be rectified by this bill for the school children of Oregon.

The system has a flaw that provides the wrong response to a child patient. HB 3135 fixes this flaw by ensuring the system can offer children appropriate and immediate care.

Please pass HB 3135.

Sincerely,



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