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**Subject:** RE: Make CPR Mandatory for Teachers update 03/05/13 - Autoforwarded  
**Date:** April 4, 2013 1:05:32 PM PDT  
**To:** [cpr4teachers@comcast.net](mailto:cpr4teachers@comcast.net)

I am a registered nurse and I support bill HB 3135.

Children are different than adults. When they collapse and cease breathing it is most often from a respiratory arrest, not a cardiac arrest. What this means is that when children collapse they are already starved for oxygen and their brain is already suffering the consequences. If CPR is not initiated within 2 minutes then permanent brain damage will occur and death will follow. A teacher could not call someone in time; a school nurse could barely reach the classroom in 2 minutes; a 911 responder would take much longer. The child is left to die unless their own teacher or a nearby adult is trained to give child CPR.

Some have excuses for why teachers do not need to be CPR certified, saying that it is not necessary for their occupation. But teaching is one of the few occupations where one main adult is with a large group of children for an extended period of time. When a child emergency occurs, there is only one or two main adults available for instant lifesaving actions. There is no time to call for help; there is no time to rely upon someone else to be CPR trained. So we see that the life or death of a child depends upon the preparation of these teachers.

Some claim that this new requirement would burden teachers excessively. Yet, put another way, they are saying that learning to save student's lives would burden teachers excessively. Teachers are some of the most caring and loving people I know, who care about their student's welfare. What teacher would like to see one of their students die before their eyes, all because they were not properly trained? Will it take an event, a child's life who could have been saved but wasn't, before the school system will agree to prepare? They prepare for earthquakes and fires, for intruders, and other threats to their lives. Why not prepare to save a child's life when teachers are the only ones who can reach the child in time?

Sometimes people are hesitant about creating new requirements when the current requirements already seem burdensome. But of all things to require, and of all the reasons to require it, CPR should have been one of the first priorities a long time ago. Yet it is now that we have this opportunity. It is now that we can change the requirements to reflect the number one priority of all of us: living. To deny a child this right and leave teachers unprepared for their student's emergencies would be negligent. And we cannot afford to risk their lives any longer; we cannot afford to be passive on something so vital. Children have already lost their lives because CPR was not required of teachers. Will it take losing another child and having a parent sue the school system before CPR will be required? Certainly, someone will eventually hold the school system responsible for not preventing child deaths and for avoiding their responsibility to keep students safe. So now you have the choice. Avoid unnecessary deaths and lawsuits and other consequences. Prepare now rather than later. And remember that the lives of our children are worth more than our inconveniences.

Respectfully,  
Jessica Duffey, RN, BSN