

February 25, 2013

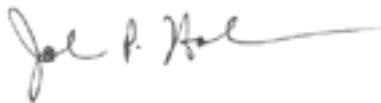
Stephanie Tama-Sweet  
Director of Government Relations, Oregon  
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) has over 300 member fire agencies representing urban and rural fire departments and districts. The OFCA is the State of Oregon's voice for governmental fire and emergency medical services agencies. The OFCA supports SB275 requiring hands-on CPR training for high school graduation that will prepare more than 45,000 Oregon students each year to administer CPR in an emergency.

Nearly 383,000 people have cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year, and only 11% survive, most likely because they don't receive timely CPR. Given right away, CPR doubles or triples survival rates. Teaching students CPR could save thousands of lives by filling our community with lifesavers – those trained to give sudden cardiac arrest victims the immediate help they need to survive until trained emergency responders arrive.

In less than the time it takes to watch a 30 minute TV sitcom, we can give students the skills they need to help save someone's life with CPR. With a short time investment, today's students will become tomorrow's lifesavers. Everyone benefits from having more lifesavers in our community. We need to create a generation in which every brother, sister, son, daughter, friend, and complete stranger is trained in CPR and is prepared to save lives.

Sincerely,



President John Nohr  
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association