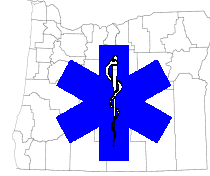


Oregon Emergency Medical Services Association

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EMR EMT Advanced Intermediate Paramedic RN PA Physician



28 February 2013

Senator Mark Hass, Chair – Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee
Members of the Committee

REF: SB275 – CPR and AED Training Required for High School Diploma

The Oregon EMS Association (OEMSA) supports passage of SB275.

On average, about 15 Oregonians will die today from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). This happened yesterday and it will happen again tomorrow, and the next day. It may happen in Aloha, Otis, Springfield, or Sunriver. It can happen in a school, a store, a church, or even at a committee hearing at our state capitol; anywhere there are people.

When someone goes into SCA, he or she needs prompt resuscitation by someone trained in CPR using chest compressions. That is the only thing that will keep that person alive long enough for a defibrillator (AED) to arrive and be used to shock (defibrillate) their heart. The window of opportunity is tiny -- only five to seven minutes to defibrillate before brain damage occurs unless successful CPR is done. Yet, we lose many people in SCA because there is not someone at the scene trained to perform CPR or in the use of an AED. This is one of the reasons why less than 5% of those in SCA survive outside a hospital in Oregon.

Learning CPR is a very quick and easy skill to learn. So is the use of an AED. Establishing the requirement that in order to receive a high school diploma a student must have received training in CPR and use of an AED addresses this issue. It will help Oregonians and visitors to our state potentially survive from SCA.

SB275 starts Oregon down the road to where in a few short years the odds will be in a SCA victim's favor that someone will be near who has been trained in these life saving skills, and can help that victim. It's a quick, simple fix. This is why we support SB-275.

It would be great if we could get everyone in Oregonian to learn CPR and use of an AED. SB-275 is a great place to start this goal.

Sincerely,

Gary McLean, RN, Paramedic
President, OEMSA