TO: Chair Roblan & Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Kaylee Nelson
        Springfield, Oregon

DATE: March 12, 2015

RE: SB 79 – Teaching CPR in schools

Chair Roblan & Committee Members,

My name is Kaylee Nelson, and I live in Springfield, Oregon. I'm a recent University of Oregon graduate, the current Miss University of Oregon, and a volunteer with Eugene Springfield Fire & Rescue's CPR in schools initiative.

I'd like to share with you why Senate Bill 79 is important for Oregon, and to describe some of the collaborative CPR work happening in Lane County schools.

Cardiac arrest can happen at anytime, anywhere. Four out of five times, it happens at home. While the life that you save could be a stranger, it's more likely to be a friend or family member. I know firsthand what it's like to feel helpless in an emergency when a loved one is in trouble.

That's why I have volunteered my time to support the work of Eugene Springfield Fire & Rescue and their initiative to improve survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest. Since 2012, the department has trained approximately 3,000 students in Hands-Only CPR at 10 middle and high schools in Lane County. They've enlisted the help of other community members, including college students from the Alpha Phi sorority at the University of Oregon.

During these classroom trainings, I have found that CPR is both easy to learn and simple to teach. We are able to educate students about CPR, as well as to provide students with hands-on training and practice within one class period. Teachers are welcoming and helpful. Students are engaged and empowered.

The work of fire departments like Eugene Springfield Fire & Rescue is invaluable—but they can't do it alone. Schools can play a critical role in helping to equip the next generation with this simple, lifesaving skill. Ensuring that CPR training is required for all students will put more lifesavers into every community across the state.

Anyone can learn CPR and everyone should know how. I encourage you to support Senate Bill 79.

Thank you.