

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Thomas H. Killion
Office of Senator Tom Killion
463 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3009

Board of Directors

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Mary M. Newman, MS
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Dear Senator Killion:

The [Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation](#) is a national nonprofit organization based in Pittsburgh, PA. Our mission is to raise awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and help save lives. [Sudden cardiac arrest](#) is a life-threatening emergency that happens when the heart suddenly stops beating. It affects more than 356,000 people outside hospitals each year in the U.S., including 7,000 children. Unfortunately only one victim in 10 survives, but survival rates double or triple when victims receive immediate CPR. Incidence and survival rates in Pennsylvania reflect the national average.

We wholeheartedly support the legislation you have sponsored (Senate Bill 521), which will ensure that high school students receive CPR training and learn about automated external defibrillators at least once before graduation. SB 521 is a common-sense way to prepare students with fundamental life skills.

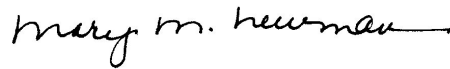
Further, we recognize that the legislation will not place any financial burden on schools or the Commonwealth. In addition, the legislation has been approved by the State Education Committee and the State Appropriations Committee.

To date, 38 states—including the states surrounding Pennsylvania—and the District of Columbia have enacted similar legislation. We believe it's time for Pennsylvania to join the national movement to help create a new generation of lifesavers.

We urge the legislature to unanimously support this lifesaving legislation.

Thank you for your leadership on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Mary M. Newman, MS
President

cc: Henry Jampel, MD, MHS, Chair, SCA Foundation Board of Directors
Srinivas Murali, MD, FACC, FACP, Member, SCA Foundation Board of Directors
Susan Koeppen, National Spokesperson, SCA Foundation
Martin Gannon, Member, SCA Foundation Board of Directors
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