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Dear Governor Nikki Haley:

As your constituent, the issue of hands-only CPR training and AED awareness in high schools is very important to me. Research has shown how vital a prompt medical response in the first few minutes of cardiac arrest or a heart attack can be in preserving a life. If a larger segment of our population in South Carolina was trained in these basic skills, as a community, we may be able to save more lives.

Approximately 70% of Americans do not know how to administer CPR. If high schools in our state train students in hands-only CPR and AED proficiency, as a community, we could begin to chip away at these high numbers and hopefully create a reality where more lives are saved and less lost.

All students need to be taught the Heimlich maneuver and community CPR, the earlier the better, whether it is the little ones in kindergarten knowing when to call 911 up to the middle schoolers who could actually perform CPR and the Heimlich. This is way more important to know than the angles of a triangle or how to do algebra.

Only 10.4% of people who suffer sudden cardiac arrest outside the hospital survive to make it home. Effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. Let's ensure our high school students in South Carolina are trained to be the hero that could keep someone alive in an emergency.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Hearl  
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