

TIME RECEIVED  
January 27, 2015 3:10:10 PM EST

REMOTE CSID  
301-686-8000

DURATION  
30

PAGES  
1

STATUS  
Received

1/27/2015 15:09 301-686-8000 To:

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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.

I am also trained and certified to perform CPR, not just because I work in the medical profession as a certified medical assistant, but because I have grandchildren. I decided it would be an important skill if in case of an emergency I could help save a life.

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,  
Diannne Furtek  
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