

macep



Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians

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October 11, 2019

Senator Joanne Comerford,
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 413-C
Boston, MA 02133

Representative John Mahoney
House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Madam Chair and Mr. Chairman,

The Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians (MACEP) wishes to communicate its support for H.1938 and S.1313, An Act Relative to Improving the Outcomes for Sudden Cardiac Arrest in the Commonwealth (Keefe/Moore). These identical bills were heard by the Committee on Public Health on September 26, 2019.

H.1938/S.1313 would require all 911 telecommunicators that provide dispatch for emergency medical conditions to be trained in high-quality Telephone-CPR (T-CPR), utilizing the most current nationally recognized emergency cardiovascular care guidelines, and incorporating recognition protocols for out of hospital cardiac arrest, compression-only CPR instructions for callers, and continuous education. Compliance would be monitored by the Health Policy Commission. The bill would also add a physician specializing in emergency medicine and a person with expertise in regional EMS to the state 911 Commission and require the Department of Public Health to include sudden cardiac arrest as a reportable disease.

Emergency physicians know all too well that sudden cardiac death can happen any place, at any time. Patients that suffer from sudden cardiac arrest have the best chance at survival if they receive bystander CPR until EMTs arrive, but bystander CPR is not always available. CPR circulates blood to the brain and vital organs keeping the victim alive until help arrives. Without CPR, every minute that goes by means 10 percent less chance of survival. Immediate bystander CPR and early defibrillation are the most effective means to save a life from sudden cardiac arrest. Timely telephone assisted bystander CPR leads to 60-70 percent of victims receiving CPR before EMS arrives.

High-quality T-CPR is supported by the American Heart Association. It will improve the survival rate for some patients with sudden cardiac arrest, give emergency medical responders a better chance of success when they arrive on the scene, and will save lives in the Commonwealth.

MACEP urges the Committee on Public Health to report H.1938/S.1313 out of Committee favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sutton MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "B", "S", and "M" being particularly prominent.

Brian Sutton, MD, FACEP
President