

February 1, 2022

Senator Delores G. Kelley  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

cc: Senate Committee on Finance

Chair Kelly and members of the Finance Committee, thank you so much for allowing me to submit testimony in strong support of SB294, and thank you to Senator Cassilly for introducing this important bill. My name is AJ Pace, and I am the Vice President of Global Marketing for Defibtech LLC, a technology leader and innovator in the design and manufacture of life-saving resuscitation devices including automated external defibrillators (AEDs), mechanical chest compressors, and related accessories.

As you may know, cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death and a major public health crisis, with more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA) occurring annually in the U.S. and nearly 90% of those resulting in fatality. Sadly, this staggering fatality rate is partially due to the immense importance of response time in surviving this terrible disease. Within minutes of suffering an attack, much sooner than most people can usually reach emergency medical services, blood is no longer being pumped to the brain. In fact, the chances of survival of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) decreases by 10% every minute that passes without treatment.

While so many are unable to reach help in time, luckily there are those whose lives are saved by the use of an AED in the first critical minutes of sudden cardiac arrest. Studies have found that the timely use of an AED improves the chances of survival for victims by 40%. This significant difference in health outcome means that providing immediate access to AED's for those suffering from sudden cardiac arrest can save thousands of lives each year in the U.S.

Unfortunately, those suffering from sudden cardiac arrest in a situation with limited access to medical services and devices, such as in health clubs and other exercise facilities, are especially in danger of fatality. SB294 is so crucial because it prevents unnecessary deaths by ensuring an AED is at hand when individuals may be at increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest due to physical exertion. The bill's mandate that health clubs are equipped with an AED and that there is an employee on site trained to properly use it will expand access to AED's and drastically increase the chances that individuals survive an attack of this terrible disease. At Defibtech, we are committed to saving lives through our advanced medical technology and applaud this legislation as an important step to one day ensure critical, immediate AED access to every single individual who needs it.



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