



February 14, 2020

Senator Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dibble & Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA), I would like to express the AHA's support for S.F. 1395, legislation that authorizes roadside signage for automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for qualifying locations.

Over the years, the AHA has given priority to cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for the US population and the placement and use of AEDs in public places to ensure optimal response when a person experiences sudden cardiac arrest. Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is a global public health issue with more than 3.8 million victims annually and only 8% to 12% surviving to hospital discharge. Victims require immediate basic life support to optimize the probability of survival.

Early defibrillation of shockable rhythms is associated with improved survival, but one of the greatest challenges in OHCA management has been providing victims with access to immediate defibrillation. Even in optimized emergency medical systems, the median response time for OHCA can be more than 6 minutes. Individuals with little to no training can operate AEDs to support chest compressions and treat shockable cardiac arrest rhythms.

The American Heart Association supports placement of AEDs in locations with significant public footprint including in coordination with cardiac emergency response planning. Continued evolution of public access defibrillation implementation to support high-quality chest compressions and improve early defibrillation will enhance cardiac safety in our communities and increase survival for victims of OHCA. Senate File 1395 is a valuable tool in providing additional information to the public for AED accessibility.

I respectfully ask for the committee's support of Senate File 1395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul L. Weirtz".

Paul L. Weirtz
State Government Relations Director
American Heart Association