

KEN SMITH, MEMBER
28B EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202112
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2112
(717) 783-1359
FAX: (717) 780-4757

1414 MONROE AVENUE
DUNMORE, PENNSYLVANIA 18509
(570) 342-2710
FAX: (570) 342-2845

E-MAIL ADDRESS: ksmith@pahouse.net
WEBSITE: www.pahouse.com/ksmith



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Ken Smith

DATE: March 23, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation Mandating Automated External Defibrillators in Schools (Prior HB 1803)

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would require all public, nonpublic, parochial, private and charter schools to keep and maintain automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all occupied school buildings. In addition, my legislation would also require schools to train staff and some students on their correct use.

According to the American Heart Association, sudden cardiac death is unexpected death resulting from an abrupt loss of heart function or cardiac arrest in a victim who may or may not have been diagnosed with heart disease. Statistics indicate that brain death can begin just four minutes after one experiences cardiac arrest. With the help of an AED, cardiac arrest is reversible in most victims if treated within a few minutes.

Because few attempts at resuscitation succeed after 10 minutes, I believe that we should require our schools to keep and maintain AEDs, to train staff, and to inform students.

I hope that you will join with me to help save the lives of children by co-sponsoring this important legislation. Please contact Julie via email at jyarrish@pahouse.net.