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My name is Janet Ostoyich. I am a certified School Nurse from Bucks County. This position paper is my personal belief and not necessarily that of any particular school district or nursing organization.

My first interest in AEDs was in 1998 when a fifth grade boy in my elementary school fainted during a gym class. He was one of the fortunate survival stories. He was diagnosed with Long Q T Syndrome and treated at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia by Dr. Victoria Vetter. He arrived the first day of school in the fall with his personal AED and said, "Mrs. O. this is what you are to do for me if I go down." That was the beginning of a long journey for me. It eventually ignited a very strong passion and appreciation for the AED and its use in our schools. I, along with a couple of my colleagues, began a campaign to get AEDs into all of our school buildings. This has been a rewarding, yet difficult task .

In Wisconsin, project ADAM , which stands for Automatic Defibrillators in Adam's memory, is named for Adam Lemel, 17, a star athlete who died from cardiac arrest during a basketball game in 1999, was started by his parents to try to get AEDs in high schools and sports fields. Since then, I have been fortunate to work with Lorraine Sikora, Toni Pelligrini and Rachel Moyer. They have similar stories of heartbreak about the loss of their sons and nephew. They have worked tirelessly for many years spreading the word and donating AEDs to schools. More recently, I have worked with Dr. Vetter and Danielle Main who have created Youth Heart Watch at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. They have offered wonderful programs of awareness and help schools who wish to start AED programs.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest can happen anywhere, anytime to people of all ages. Our schools are used as community centers. I have had a 911 call at my elementary for an 81 year old grandmother attending a Spanish Fiesta. We have voting, plays, concerts, meetings, adult basketball leagues, as well as all types of school functions. We can also add to this the increase in the number of children with diagnosed and undiagnosed cardiac conditions.

During a cardiac emergency, time is of the essence. Typically only 5-10% of people struck by cardiac arrest survive. If an AED can be utilized, the survival rate can be increased to 74%. The arrival time for EMS in our particular area is 5-7 minutes. The most effective time for defibrillation is within the first 4 minutes of cardiac arrest. Every minute that passes decreases survival 7-10%.

AEDs have become the standard of care in most school districts. The fear legally should be not having them. The Good Samaritan Act protects the individual using it in good faith and with the proper training.

Training is a vital component of this program. The American Heart Association and The American Red Cross offer training programs for the lay rescuer and the healthcare provider. In our district, many of our nurses and some teachers have become certified as trainers to teach the staff in the district.

The cost of the units have decreased significantly throughout the years. Just as computer prices have decreased, so have the costs of AEDs. There are many different brands that essentially do the same work. This is a small price to pay for an "insurance policy" for the most precious lives in our care- our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important issue.