

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**  
**S.5539 Baskin /A.785 Solages**  
**Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in Schools**

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (New York ACEP) strongly supports S.5539 Baskin /A.785 Solages which integrated Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) into the existing public school safety framework.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in both adults and children. Each year, the U.S. sees approximately 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in adults and 23,000 in children (Mozaffarian, D, 2015; Okubo, M et al, 2020). Survival rates remain low, around 10%, but early intervention drastically improves outcomes. Schools serve as community hubs and must be prepared. By integrating cardiac emergency response plans (CERPs) into the public-school safety framework you are increasing the survival rate of individuals experiencing cardiac arrest and enabling them to get to the Emergency Department to receive further treatment.

New York took a major step forward in 2002 with Louis' Law, mandating AEDs in all public schools. This law, in honor of Louis J. Acompora, recognized the state's responsibility to protect students and the broader school community. Alongside Louis' Law, Good Samaritan protections for lay responders were implemented to encourage lifesaving action

This bill strengthens school safety by:

- Requiring schools to adopt Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) structured, rehearsed protocols that ensure rapid action when seconds matter.
- Supporting training and coordination of school staff and students to act immediately in a cardiac emergency.
- Reinforcing the life-saving potential of AEDs with a comprehensive response strategy.

Preparedness and swift action during cardiac emergencies are critical, particularly in schools where children spend a significant portion of their time. Data underscores this need:

- Schools equipped with AEDs report a **70% survival rate for children** experiencing cardiac arrest—seven times the overall survival rate.
- Implementing CERPs **can increase survival rates by 50% or more**, ensuring a trained lay-responder team can act quickly and effectively.

This legislation is a low-cost, high-impact measure to protect our school communities. It ensures educators, staff, and students are equipped, trained, and confident in responding to cardiac emergencies. New York ACEP represents over 3,000 dedicated emergency medicine physicians committed to speaking out for broad access to quality health care, especially emergency health services for all citizens. **New York ACEP urges the Legislature to pass S.5539/A.785 to save lives and reaffirm the state's commitment to school safety and public health.**