Whereas, Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) affects over 40,000 people in the public environment annually in the United States and early and prompt bystander automated external defibrillator (AED) use has been shown to be key for survival from SCA; and

Whereas, Current research have shown that AEDs are used in less than 5% of public SCA events; and

Whereas, Despite efforts to establish AED availability in schools, workplaces and public spaces (as supported by AMA Policy H-130.938), studies have shown that the majority of the public either cannot identify an AED or are not aware of where AEDs are located; and

Whereas, Due to the combination of inadequate public education about AED use, presence of labeling on AEDs that state "Trained Responders Only", and variations in state legislation with respect to legal protection for "Good Samaritans" who use AEDs, most laypersons are not aware that AEDs can be used by non-medical professionals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association update its policy on CPR and automated external defibrillators (AEDs) by endorsing efforts to promote the importance of AED use and public awareness of AED locations, by using solutions such as integrating AED sites into widely accessible mobile maps and applications (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED That our AMA urge AED vendors to remove labeling from AED stations that stipulate that only trained medical professionals can use the defibrillators (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED That our AMA support consistent and uniform legislation across states for the legal protection of untrained personnel who use AEDs in the course of attempting to aid a sudden cardiac arrest victim. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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REFERENCES

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

**Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Defibrillators H-130.938**

Our AMA: (1) supports publicizing the importance of teaching CPR, including the use of automated external defibrillation; (2) strongly recommends the incorporation of CPR classes as a voluntary part of secondary school programs; (3) encourages the American public to become trained in CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators; (4) advocates the widespread placement of automated external defibrillators, including on all grade K-12 school campuses and locations at which school events are held; (5) encourages all grade K-12 schools to develop an emergency action plan for sudden cardiac events; (6) supports increasing government and industry funding for the purchase of automated external defibrillator devices; (7) endorses increased funding for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and defibrillation training of community organization and school personnel; (8) supports the development and use of universal connectivity for all defibrillators; and (9) supports legislation that would encourage high school students be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use.

Citation: (CCB/CLRPD Rep. 3, A-14; Appended: Res. 211, I-14; Modified: Res. 919, I-15)