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February 6, 2025

Susan R. Donovan, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H 5083 – An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Automated External Defibrillators  
Required at Public Places and Healthcare Facilities**

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter of support for H 5083, legislation that would require golf facilities to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) on the premises. If enacted, this legislation would take effect upon passage.

Cardiac arrest substantially contributes to avoidable death and disability across the United States. Using AEDs and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) within minutes of cardiac arrest can dramatically improve survival rates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that targeted site placement (placement of AEDs at any location where out-of-hospital cardiac arrest may be more likely to occur, such as fitness facilities, workplaces, airports, hallways, etc., based on specific criteria), has an evidence rating of *best*.

The cost of an AED ranges from \$800 to \$2,000, plus the cost of replacing pads every two to three years and replacing batteries every five years. In the past, AED bills have generated considerable interest and inquiries from the public. These inquiries are handled principally by RIDOH's Center for Emergency Medical Services as part of its normal course of business.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD  
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Deborah A. Fellela  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy