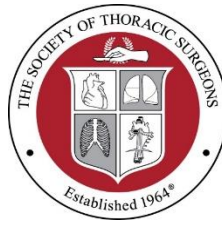


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April 24, 2023

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States House of Representatives  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
United States House of Representatives  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Posey  
United States House of Representatives  
2150 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: S. 1024/H.R. 2370 – Access to AEDs Act**

Dear Senators Booker, Blumenthal, Leader Schumer, and Representatives Cherfilus-McCormick, and Posey,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I would like to thank you for introducing S.1024/H.R. 2370, the Access to AEDs Act, which will play a crucial role in reducing the devastating impact of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in our schools.

Founded in 1964, STS is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,600 surgeons, researchers, and allied healthcare professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lungs, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.

SCA is a leading cause of death in the United States, affecting over 356,000 individuals annually. Of these, an estimated 7,000 to 23,000 young people are stricken by SCA each year. SCA often occurs without warning and can quickly lead to irreversible brain damage or death if not treated immediately. Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) provide a critical intervention for SCA victims, as they can shock the heart back into a normal rhythm and improve the chances of survival.

The Access to AEDs Act will ensure that these lifesaving devices are available in public elementary schools and secondary schools around the nation. This legislation will provide critical funding for AED procurement, training, and maintenance. By increasing the availability and proper use of AEDs, we can

significantly improve survival rates for SCA victims and reduce the long-term health complications associated with delayed treatment.

Thank you for your dedication to improving the health and well-being of our communities. We look forward to working with you to ensure that every student has access to life-saving AED technology. Please contact Derek Brandt, Vice President of Government Affairs, at [dbrandt@sts.org](mailto:dbrandt@sts.org), or Molly Peltzman, Associate Director of Health Policy, at [mpeltzman@sts.org](mailto:mpeltzman@sts.org), or should you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas E. MacGillivray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "T".

Thomas E. MacGillivray, MD  
President