

TO: Chair Doherty and Committee Members
House Committee on Education

FROM: Julien Comardelle
5715 Broadway St., West Linn, OR

DATE: May 8th, 2015

RE: Support of SB 79

Dear Chair Doherty and Committee Members,

My name is Julien Comardelle and I'm a student at West Linn High School.

As a volunteer alongside Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, I have had the opportunity to go to my former middle school, Athey Creek, and teach the seventh grade class the simple but extremely important basics of CPR. I have helped set up the teaching areas and have personally led groups of students through the process to help reinforce and teach the aforementioned basics.

CPR is a very simple and easy to learn skill, that, unfortunately, few people feel the need to learn. Teaching CPR is a very simple endeavor. The students I have had the pleasure of working with have been very attentive during the lessons and focused during the applied exercises.

Ensuring that every student in Oregon learns CPR in school is important because CPR is a lifesaving skill. If students in Oregon are trained in CPR, there is now a greater chance that a person experiencing cardiac arrest will have access to CPR and survive. The current national average for survival for out of hospital cardiac arrest in 2014 was only 10.4% according to the American Heart Association.

CPR education is personally very important to me because my father had Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and he developed cardiac complications after chemotherapy. In summer 2012 he had a cardiac arrest at home. He was successfully resuscitated on the floor of our living room and that prolonged his life by two more years. As soon as my age permitted, I got fully CPR-certified.

In my freshman year of high school I performed a research project for the Intel Science and Engineering Fair which compared CPR certification rates between Oregon and Louisiana. It was at the fair that I was approached by Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue and introduced to the project, which I am so honored to be a part of.

Anyone can save a life and everyone should know how. I hope you will support Senate Bill 79 so that there are lifesavers in every community across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration and your public service.