



## ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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20 November 2014

The Honorable Tammie Wilson  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 412  
Juneau, AK 99801-1185

Dear Representative Wilson,

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association stands in support of your proposal to remove impediments in state law to the provision of automatic external defibrillators, or AEDs, in public places. The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association's members are career and volunteer chief executive officers of fire and emergency medical services organizations throughout Alaska. We believe that by removing conditions for immunity for building owners and institutions, more AEDs will be made accessible to the public and that our constituents will be better served.

AEDs are modern, automated medical devices that can be safely used by an untrained bystander to restore a normal cardiac rhythm in someone in sudden cardiac arrest. When it is turned on, the device provides step-by-step aural and textual instructions on how to attach and use the device. These devices have an impressive success rate for people in certain cardiac rhythms in a witnessed cardiac arrest.

The use of AEDs are currently covered by Alaska's Good Samaritan law (AS 09.65.090), which is designed to encourage would-be rescuers to take action without fear of litigation. However, Alaska's Good Samaritan law attaches conditions to building owners and institutions that provide AEDs (AS 09.65.087). These conditions include requirements to provide training, maintenance, a means to notify 9-1-1, and registering the device(s) with emergency medical services.

We agree that providing training and maintaining AEDs, as well as other measures, are good and necessary. However, we're finding that large institutions can't confidently assure that each of the conditions can be reliably met, therefore exposing them to liability and discouraging the provision of AEDs. Removing these conditions would increase the number of AEDs available in public places. As is currently true under the Good Samaritan law, building owners and institutions would still be liable for gross negligence.

Thank you for bringing this bill forward for the safety and welfare of Alaskans.

Best Regards,

*James C. Baisden*

James Baisden, President