

Senator Gray-Jackson,

I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 20 (SB 20), which directs the Department of Education and Early Development to adopt curricula for hands-only CPR instruction in public schools, determine required grade levels, and ensure instruction is offered—delivered by qualified instructors (CPR instructor certificate, EMS license/certification, or Alaska teacher certificate).

I have been actively advocating for CPR education in Kenai Peninsula schools, and I recently partnered with Guardian Life Flight to teach CPR to a group of local homeschool students. That experience reinforced a practical point: our Alaska Public Health Centers are well positioned to help SB 20 succeed because we already have trained personnel, training infrastructure, and a statewide footprint that can reduce cost and logistical burden for districts.

From a readiness standpoint, Public Health Nursing can contribute in several concrete ways consistent with SB 20's requirements:

- **Qualified instructors and scalable delivery:** SB 20 allows instruction by CPR instructor-certified personnel, EMS-credentialed personnel, or certified teachers. Public health staff can coordinate with school staff and local EMS/flight partners to ensure districts have access to qualified instructors and back-up coverage.
- **Evidence-based, hands-on training:** The bill requires curricula based on current national, evidence-based ECC guidelines and incorporating hands-on practice plus cognitive learning. Public health can provide standardized skills practice sessions (compression technique, rate/depth coaching, scene safety, calling 911) and support consistent delivery across schools.
- **AED education support:** SB 20 requires instruction in appropriate AED use (video/other means acceptable if in-person is not available). Public health can help districts implement AED modules, including practical familiarization where devices are available.

If SB 20 advances, I believe a workable implementation model is a **district-public health partnership**: school staff deliver the DEED-adopted curriculum during class time, while public health and community partners (EMS, Life Flight, etc.) provide periodic hands-on skill labs, instructor support, and train-the-trainer sessions. This approach keeps costs low, increases coverage, and helps ensure the training is not a “one-and-done” video experience, but a skills-based competency.

I would welcome the chance to share what we learned from the recent homeschool training with Guardian Life Flight and to discuss how Kenai Peninsula Public Health (and other regional public health centers) can support SB 20 implementation at no or low cost to districts—especially in rural and resource-limited communities.

Thank you for your leadership on this lifesaving policy.

Respectfully,

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