



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

Learn and Live...

Western States Affiliate
816 So. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Tel 213 291 7000
Fax 213 291 7001
www.heart.org

Chairman
Mary Caldwell, R.N., Ph.D.
Healdsburg

President
Richard J. Gray, M.D.
Monterey

Immediate Past Chairman
Alvin L. Royse
Hillsborough

Immediate Past President
Jeffrey L. Anderson, M.D.
Salt Lake City

Treasurer
Janice Murphy, CFA
Oakland

Secretary
Robert C. Robbins, M.D.
Stanford

Executive Vice President
Roman J. Bowser

CDO, Field Operations & Development
Ginnie Gatlin

COO, Business Operations
Sara Robertson

February 22, 2011

Senator Kevin Meyer, Chair
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Meyer:

The American Heart Association supports Senate Bill 8, an act relating to questionnaires and surveys in schools. We support this bill because it will allow for more effective survey implementation. This is extremely beneficial and will provide for more detailed results, particularly on student health issues.

It is important to note that SB 8 does not simply revert back to the old system. Learning from the experience of the past decade, the bill maintains and strengthens parental notification. By making this one change (passive consent) it will allow the system to be manageable.

The current law, requiring signed permission slips for any student to participate, unnecessarily hinders data collection needed to design and evaluate health and risk prevention programs and services to protect our youth. This requirement costs the state and local school districts additional time and staff costs.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Parish, at (907) 522-2600.

Sincerely,

Jamie Morgan
Senior Legislative Director