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February 3, 2015

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

Dear Representative Wilson,

On behalf of the American Heart/American Stroke Association, we are pleased to support HB 4. This bill will make Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) more accessible to the public by removing barriers to the use of AEDs, resulting in more opportunities for Good Samaritan acts and saved lives.

Each year, nearly 424,000 people have sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital in the United States, and only 10.4% of these victims survive. The key to survival is administration of bystander CPR and the use of an AED. AEDs are extremely accurate, user-friendly, computerized devices with audio prompts that guide the user through the steps to safely deliver life-saving shocks.

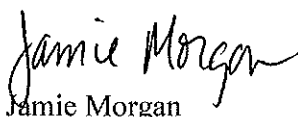
Unfortunately, businesses and institutions are not voluntarily installing AEDs because current law contains numerous conditions related to training, reporting, and maintenance for immunity, resulting in the fear of liability.

HB 4 removes these conditions for businesses and institutions that voluntarily install AEDs. It is important to note that the bill does not provide Good Samaritan liability protections for cases resulting from gross negligence.

While the American Heart/American Stroke Association believes that the requirements in current law are important, we know that sudden cardiac arrest is 100 percent fatal if not treated quickly. For every minute without a shock to the heart, the chance of survival decreases by 7 to 10 percent.

The American Heart/American Stroke Association believes that passage of this bill will result in increased access to AEDs and more opportunities for Good Samaritan acts and more lives saved.

Sincerely,



Jamie Morgan  
Senior Director of Advocacy and Policy Campaigns