

Jan 14, 2025

Chair Fagg & the Honorable Members of the Utilities Committee
Senate Committee on Utilities
SB 11, proponent-written

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 11- telecommunicator CPR (T-CPR) training for emergency dispatchers in Kansas. As a Cardiac Rehabilitation RN , I deeply understand the critical importance of swift and effective emergency response. I have many patients that are with us today due to CPR and early defibrillation. I feel passionate in supporting this life saving bill. I know that ensuring our telecommunicators are trained to assist callers in CPR is a necessary and life-saving measure that will strengthen the safety and well-being of our state.

I have experienced my father not surviving a sudden cardiac arrest due to bystanders not knowing CPR. In his situation, CPR was started but delayed until an EMT arrived, which we know was approximately 8 minutes due to the rural area he was in at that moment. I do feel that if the bystanders were given telecommunicated CPR, his outcome could have been different.

In my years of cardiac nursing, I have heard many stories where telecommunicator did help bystanders begin CPR and feel this has made a major difference in how many victims of cardiac arrest survive. It is so important during that moment of fear and anxiety by bystanders to have a voice of calm and direction.

Telecommunicator CPR training can bridge the gap between the moment an emergency occurs and the time it takes for first responders to arrive on the scene. By guiding bystanders through CPR over the phone, dispatchers can ensure that life-saving measures are initiated quickly, increasing the likelihood of a positive outcome.

I respectfully urge you to support legislation that ensures telecommunicators in Kansas receive CPR training. This initiative would be a small investment in the safety of all Kansans, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. I believe that with such training in place, we can help ensure that more lives are saved, and more families are spared the pain of loss.

Sincerely,

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