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Chairman Joseph McNamara
House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 5423

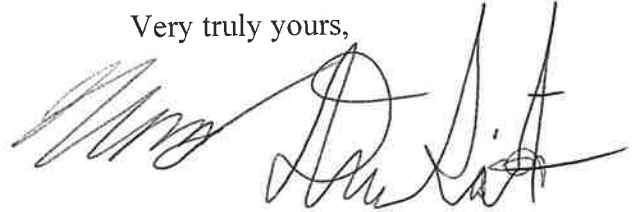
Dear Chairman McNamara,

On behalf of the membership, Rhode Island Athletic Trainers' Association supports H 5423, which would require elementary, middle and high schools to provide and maintain on-site functional automated external defibrillators (AEDs). This bill would also require that the schools develop a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) in accordance with the American Heart Association's or a similar organization's guidelines.

This is a good bill intended to keep students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade safe from sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergencies. While the risk of sudden cardiac arrest is low among children, it is not zero. CERPs address life-threatening emergencies by adequately training school personnel, including nurses, athletic trainers, and coaches, in CPR and AED use. Mandating the training of school personnel and appropriate placement of AEDs in all high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools will protect the children in Rhode Island from the risk of a cardiac incident.

Therefore, the Rhode Island Athletic Trainers' Association urges this committee to pass
H 5423.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc DeSisto", written in a cursive style.

Marc DeSisto