

Date: March 9, 2026

To: Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Elizabeth Renaud, MD, FACS, FAAP

Re: RI S 2210 – The School Trauma Kit Act

To the Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adolescents. According to the National Institutes of Health, bleeding causes 40% of all trauma deaths; half of these deaths occur before a patient reaches a hospital. In the United States, the average time to scene after dispatch of Emergency Medical Services is seven minutes; an injured individual may bleed to death in far less time. Much trauma-related bleeding can be treated immediately by bystanders if they are trained in hemorrhage control.

Since Senator Sosnowski first introduced the School Trauma Kit Act last year, Rhode Island has unfortunately joined the growing number of states that have experienced a mass shooting incident. The horrific events at Brown University in December and Pawtucket in March highlight the fact that we, as a community, must stay ever-vigilant to protect our loved ones, and particularly our children.

Stop the Bleed is a program developed by the Department of Defense for this specific purpose: to teach the public how to intervene when confronted with life-threatening bleeding in order to reduce preventable deaths due to injury. Injuries causing severe hemorrhage arise from numerous sources: car accidents, kitchen injuries, boating mishaps, and even a pane of broken glass. Through simple, direct instruction that empowers the student to have the knowledge and techniques to intervene, the Stop the Bleed program aims to reduce preventable deaths and save lives. Increasing the knowledge of lay people at the scene of an accident can deliver this impact in the long minutes before first responder arrival.

The program has three basic goals:

1. To empower the public to act in the event of a bleeding emergency, effectively becoming “immediate responders;”
2. To teach the public techniques to stop bleeding; and
3. To make materials needed to stop bleeding widely available.

The Stop the Bleed program focuses on three simple techniques: compression, packing, and tourniquet application. The 60-minute course teaches participants how to recognize life threatening bleeding and apply these techniques. Stop the Bleed education sessions are free of charge to participants. Stop the Bleed kits contain materials useful for treating bleeding: gloves, scissors, tourniquets, gauze, packing, and an instruction card. Individual kits, which can be stored in an AED case, cost less than \$50 and can be bought in bulk for use in schools and other public locations. These kits contain items not typically found in standard first aid kits.

Over the last year, a group of students and physicians from Alpert Medical School has taught Stop the Bleed to over 250 school nurses, health teachers, and staff at schools throughout Rhode Island. Many of those trained have become instructors themselves and are now advocates for teaching school personnel.

Stop the Bleed has the potential to save thousands of lives that otherwise would be ended due to severe hemorrhage after injury. The kits are easy to use and of limited cost. Bill S 2210, The School Trauma Kit Act, supports Stop the Bleed training for school personnel, funds the supply of Stop the Bleed kits for use in schools, and provides immunity for trained persons who render emergency assistance to those experiencing traumatic bleeding. The presence of a trained Stop the Bleed provider at sporting events and other activities where there is a higher risk of injury can help protect the children of this state. Stop the Bleed training can be adapted to current teacher education programs – the training is about 60 minutes in length and planning is flexible. Your support for this bill can make Rhode Island safer for children, teens, and adults, and allow Rhode Island to become a member of the growing number of states who have also supported Stop the Bleed efforts in schools and public places (please see the table below for a summary of other states with Stop the Bleed legislation).

No one is immune to trauma. As responsible and caring citizens, we must all be able to help the injured until first responders arrive. The simple techniques taught by this course can save a life by preventing an injured person from bleeding to death in the few minutes before medical personnel are available. As many have said, the only thing more tragic than a death is a death that could have been prevented.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present this testimony.

Respectfully yours,



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State	Kits in Schools	Training in Schools	Kits in Public or State-Owned Buildings	Funding
Arkansas		HB 1014 & SB 294		
California	AB 70 & AB 2260	AB 2260*	AB 70 & AB 2260	
Colorado	HB23-1213			
Florida	HB 1357			HB 5001
Georgia	Trauma Commission	Trauma Commission	Trauma Commission	
Illinois	HB 1561	HB1561		
Indiana	HB 1063	HB 1063 & SB 0486		HB 1396
Louisiana	SB 207	SB 207		
Massachusetts				H 5050
Missouri			SB 68	HB 14
Tennessee	HB 212	HB 212		
Texas	HB 496	HB 496		
Utah				HB 61
Virginia	HB1700	HB1700		
Washington	SB 5790	SB 5790		

From <https://www.stopthebleed.org/news-advocacy/legislative-updates/>