



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
of the American College of Surgeons
Professional Association, Inc.



**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 795
An Act Concerning the Use of Automatic External Defibrillators
Public Health Committee
February 4, 2019**

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the CT Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (CTACS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in **Support of Senate Bill 795 An Act Concerning the Use of Automatic External Defibrillators.**

Senate Bill 795 simply clarifies current state law providing immunity or the “Good Samaritan” statute for those who use an Automatic External Defibrillator in an emergency. SB 401 addresses what we believe was the intent of the original legislation by clarifying that the underlying statute extends the protection from civil damages to licensed medical professionals such as physicians, dentists, registered nurses, and others should they be placed in the unfortunate situation of having to use an Automatic External Defibrillator whether within the confines of their practice or as a citizen aiding in an emergency.

This protection is appropriate and necessary because physicians and other health care providers are often called upon for assistance in emergencies, more often than not under circumstances that are far from ideal and rarely similar to their usual work environment or common experience, and yet in an airplane, a boat or the road they may be the most qualified first responder. If health care providers are to be incentivized to become first responders they must be equally protected under our “Good Samaritan” laws.

Please support Senate Bill 795