

[HB593 Lifesaver Schools Program](#)

My name is Catherine Carter. I am a vision and student behavioral health advocate who works on policy and legislative change to improve identification of behavioral health needs and access to healthcare. I ask for a favorable vote for HB593 Lifesaver Schools Program.

A Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." This bill about empowering our students and school staff with the skills to be lifesavers.

Last year at my daughter's middle school, two students had first time seizures in one week, one during recess and the other during class. My daughter explained how the kids didn't know what to do, at first they thought the students were messy around. Once they realized that something was wrong they immediately got the recess monitor who covered her with a coat while the student convulsed on the ground. My daughter said it took the nurse six minutes to get outside where she immediately rolled the convulsing student to her side and put her coat under her head to protect. Students were worried and not sure what occurred.

I talked with my daughter about what happened. While giving her and my other kids some first aid basics for next time, I realized that my two high schooler and middle schooler had little to no knowledge of basic first aid. My high schoolers had some training on CPR and an AED. I reviewed the Health Curriculum and then COMAR saw very little instruction in first aid. I went to sign up our kids for First Aid classes and saw that the American Red Cross had a school program for training and thought that all students could benefit from learning lifesaving skills.

A Lifesaver School offers students and staff the opportunity to learning lifesaving skills such as CPR, First Aid, and Mental Health or Peer Mentorship skills. Students could face emergencies at any time: at school, a party, swimming, a friend going through crisis... School staff could be in a classroom, at a game, with a loved one... Student can be empowered to not only save others but possibly themselves. My son Atticus said allowing it so middle school and high school students could use their training for their community service hours will mean a lot of kids would be highly motivated to take the training. The more members of a society who are trained in CPR, First Aid, and Mental Health will help make our communities safer, especially when seconds and minutes can mean the difference between life and death. We talk a lot about saving our students, but the Lifesavers School Program will empower our students with the skills to save each other and possibly themselves.



Lifesavers School

Offers Students and Staff

- TRAINING IN CPR
- TRAINING IN FIRST AID
- MENTAL WELLNESS OR PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

*Students can use their training for community service hours

Hearing 2/22 in Ways & Means