



February 21, 2024

Testimony of Laura Hale
American Heart Association
**Support SB 649 Public Safety Answering Point Personnel - Training in Telecommunications
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important legislation for heart health. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association extends its support SB 649 Public Safety Answering Point Personnel - Training in Telecommunications Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and support the amendments that have been offered by the sponsor.

We applaud Sen. Kagan for her leadership in strengthening 911 response in the state of Maryland.

In Maryland, 911 specialists are the first link in the chain of survival and have the ability to make a difference in saving the life of someone experiencing cardiac arrest. For every minute that intervention is delayed, chance of survival decreases by 10%. Having continuing education and access to training in how to be assertive to get the public to start CPR and for 911 specialist to better identify a cardiac arrest is essential to saving lives. When Telecommunicator CPR happens there is an improvement in survival rates and functional outcomes after out of hospital cardiac arrest¹.

There are 350,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests every year in the US. And that is out of hospital, which means the person calling 911 is likely a family member, friend, coworker. Telecommunicator CPR or TCPR is a training that gives 911 specialists the tools and knowledge they need to calmly walk a likely frantic and potentially untrained caller through CPR. This training has been shown to increase the chance of survival by 51%.

For all the data that we see nationwide, we've also seen it happen here in Maryland, where Charles County has piloted a very successful program that has shown strong quality improvement in lives saved. We want every county in Maryland to have access to this kind of training so that we have more lives saved.

The American Heart Association urges a favorable report on this legislation.

¹ Zhixin Wu, Micah Panczyk, *, Daniel W. Spaite, Chengcheng Hud, Hidetada Fukushima, Blake Langlais, John Sutter Bentley J. Bobrow, Telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation is independently associated with improved survival and improved functional outcome after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.