



**American
Heart
Association.**

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Gail Hogan

SB 50 – Proponent testimony

Senate Committee on Financial Institutions & Technology

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Hackett, and Ranking Member Smith, for the opportunity to discuss our support for the implementation of a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 system update.

I have been an advocate for the American Heart Association (AHA) for the last 33 years and have enjoyed many roles with the organization, including being a Central Ohio Board member, having various community leadership roles, and as an avid spokesperson. For 97 years, the AHA has been funding cardiovascular medical research, educating consumers on healthy living, and working to reduce disability and deaths caused by cardiovascular disease and stroke.

What would you do if a loved one collapsed? You'd likely call 9-1-1 and assume that the dispatcher would assist you in providing CPR, right?

However, that's not always the case. Currently in Ohio, not all 9-1-1 dispatchers are required to be Emergency Medical Dispatch certified, which would require training to provide CPR instructions to callers. Currently, the state has a conglomeration of emergency communication districts, each with varying levels of requirements to implement CPR instructions – this bill would change that.

I personally know the benefits of CPR. When I was 32 years old, without symptoms or any warning, I collapsed at work and suffered a cardiac arrest event. At the time I worked at NBC 4, a TV station here in Columbus. My co-workers came together to administer CPR until medics arrived. My station general manager had offered CPR training to the entire staff 6 months prior to my cardiac arrest. Thankfully, I had a building full of people who knew what to do and they acted. Only 10% of people who suffer sudden cardiac arrest live. I am one of the lucky and blessed statistics.

Since that time, I have worked to promote the benefits of CPR to save lives. That's why I'm so excited about this possibility for a uniform statewide 9-1-1 system that will benefit every Ohioan. This bill gives more people a second chance at life when CPR is administered and done quickly. No matter how fast medics get to the scene, it is imperative to get CPR started immediately - before medics arrive. Time is critical to saving a life.

This proposal will provide a substantial update of current standards for 9-1-1 operators. We're excited that the NextGen system will require 9-1-1 operators to be certified in CPR instruction and to provide pre-arrival medical care instructions to the caller.

Thank you for your consideration of the legislation before you today. We know this will help save lives in Ohio.