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CPR & AED TRAINING IN SCHOOLS SAVES LIVES

Recently I worked with Cheektowaga Councilman Charlie Markel and Supervisor Mary Holtz on introducing legislation to the Town of Cheektowaga and the Erie County Legislature regarding the required training of teachers and school personnel in cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). As I watched Councilman Markel lead the charge on getting this law passed, I felt humbled by his personal story, which was the driving force behind his incredible dedication and passion for this simple yet extremely important piece of legislation.

Standing by his side, I was also proud to be a part of this call to train teachers and school personnel in basic life-saving techniques. This training literally marks the difference between life and death. There are precious few minutes in which CPR and an AED can be successfully administered and if just one person within the vicinity of a person in need has been trained, then one more life potentially will be saved.

Passed in the Town of Cheektowaga and unanimously in the Erie County Legislature, these resolutions send a strong message to Albany to heed our call and move forward legislation for training in CPR and AED usage for all teachers and school personnel. Each supporter of the local resolution recognizes that such training needs to be required statewide.

Since the passage of these resolutions, this issue has garnered attention on a statewide level. This is not a matter that should get mired down in the bureaucracy of Albany. This is an issue that is important to all parents in Western New York and throughout New

Tim Kennedy for N.Y. State Senator

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York State. The New York State Legislature should fast track this issue to make our schools and communities safer.

It has been proven time and time again that CPR and AED training saves lives. Who knows whose life will be saved? The quicker Albany moves, the quicker lives could be saved.