



Safe Kids New York State
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Honorable Carl Marcellino
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 811
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Jeffrion Aubry
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 646,
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman Aubry:

We write to express our strong support for A06050 and S1297 which would provide a comprehensive approach to protect young athletes from sudden cardiac death. We thank you for your leadership in introducing the "Dominic Murray Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act."

Sudden cardiac arrest is the number one cause of death in young athletes. According to the American Heart Association, 6,000 children in the U.S. experience cardiac arrest each year, with only 6 percent surviving. Every three days, a young athlete dies from cardiac arrest, according to pediatric heart medical professionals. Further, one of every 100 children has an undetected heart condition.

SCA and the lack of knowledge about it are what brought tragedy to the Murray family of Queens. Dominic Murray was 17 when his life was cut short by sudden cardiac arrest. He was playing pickup basketball at Farmingdale State College, a game of 5 on 5, in 2009. He attempted a routine lay-up but fell backward. He was gasping for air, gurgling and experiencing seizure like symptoms, all signs of an SCA, but no one around him knew what to do. Dominic's father died from a massive heart attack just three years prior to Dominic's sudden cardiac arrest. Dominic's mother was left a widow and lost her only child. She is now demonstrating her heroism by championing this legislation. When someone is in SCA, every moment counts, as does the knowledge of those who can respond. Let's prevent further tragedies by putting awareness to work to protect our youth.

The bill focuses on awareness by providing public education on SCA. The bill is modeled on the successful laws passed in every state on youth sports concussions by requiring coaches to take an annual on-line training course and require an athlete to be pulled from play who exhibits the signs and symptoms of SCA. The training content has been created and used in other states that have passed similar laws. It would also provide parents and student-athletes with educational background on SCA that is already available. The bill is budget neutral. Forms of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act have been passed in 13 states and bills are under consideration in at least seven states. Our seven neighboring states have either passed a similar law or are considering it.

Safe Kids New York, our local coalitions and Safe Kids Worldwide are committed to working with you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie C. Ennis, EMT, MA
Safe Kids New York State