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Diane Abbott MP

House of Commons

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**DEFIBRILLATOR (AVAILABILITY) BILL - Saving Lives following Cardiac Arrest**

Dear Diane,

I am writing to seek your support for the Defibrillators (Availability) Bill 2018, which Maria Caulfield MP has introduced under the 10 Minute Rule and which is due for a **second reading on Friday, 25 January 2019.**

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/defibrillatorsavailability.html>

Defibrillators (Availability) Bill 2017-19

The Bill aims to save hundreds of lives each year by requiring:

·         Provision of defibrillators in schools, leisure, sports and other public facilities

·         Provision for the training of persons to operate defibrillators

·         Funding the acquisition, installation, use and maintenance of defibrillators

Defibrillators give high energy electric shocks to the heart, through the chest wall, to someone who has collapsed following a cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of premature death, but immediate CPR and defibrillation saves many lives.

SCA occurs because the electrical rhythm that controls the heart is replaced by a chaotic disorganised rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). Seconds count, and ambulance services may not arrive quickly enough to resuscitate most victims. Bystander use of a defibrillator can save many lives.

·         Estimated annual deaths from cardiac arrest around 60,000/year in the UK

·         Fewer than 1 person in 10 survives when the SCA occurs out of hospital.

·         CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) significantly

 increases survival chances if performed promptly.

·         AEDs provided in public places can be safely used by untrained members of

 the public while waiting for an ambulance.

**Please support this Bill, which will prevent many premature deaths.**

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Alexander