


# Stop the Bleed

American College of Surgeons 

## State Legislative Toolkit



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This toolkit is designed to be a resource for the State Chapters of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), ACS Fellows, and the ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) to promote a national bleeding control campaign and advocate for legislative opportunities in the states.

# Public Training

## Introduction

Officially launched by the White House in 2015, STOP THE BLEED® is a campaign developed by the Department of Defense to educate the public on life-saving bleeding control techniques following everyday emergencies. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) operates its bleeding control program under a licensing agreement granted by the Department of Defense. Using customized training materials developed with input from trauma surgeons as well as multiple emergency medicine specialties, the ACS Stop the Bleed program teaches the public how to recognize and respond to a bleeding emergency using three simple steps.

The goal of the ACS Stop the Bleed program is to train and equip bystanders to take decisive, lifesaving action to assist victims with severe bleeding injuries until first responders arrive. In addition, training the public as immediate responders allows those individuals to initiate care for the injured victim, beginning the critical interventions necessary while awaiting professional emergency responders.

The ACS Stop the Bleed program has expanded across the country as communities recognize the importance of emergency preparedness and response protocols. Emergency preparedness officials must review and update their disaster management plans to ensure they can effectively handle traumatic events and coordinate with local law enforcement, emergency services, community citizen bystanders, and other healthcare facilities in times of crisis. The ACS Stop the Bleed program plays a crucial role in meeting the community outreach and prevention efforts to reduce the impact of uncontrolled hemorrhaging through educating the public and the community.

## Public Training

No one should die from uncontrolled bleeding after an accident or a mass-casualty or active shooter event. The public can act as immediate responders to stop bleeding from all hazards, including farming, boating, car accidents; skating, skiing, and camping accidents; active shooter and other mass casualty events. The ACS Committee on Trauma has put significant emphasis on the development and availability of bleeding control training programs to enable the public to respond to victims of a trauma event to stop or slow life-threatening bleeding until professional emergency responders arrive.

# ACS Training Program

A significant component of the ACS Stop the Bleed campaign is the training program that provides hands-on instruction on how to respond and use a bleeding control kit. Some ACS Chapters incorporate bleeding control demonstrations and trainings as part of their lobby day activities.

Many states where bleeding control legislation passed started with a training day at the capitol or other public demonstrations in legislative districts. Bleeding control training inside the state capitol building is a great way to expose legislators and their staff to see the importance of legislation. State chapters can also provide sample bleeding control kits to legislators and staff (consult state legislative ethics rules on gifts prior to giving bleeding control kits to legislators and staff).

It is advised state ACS and Committee on Trauma (COT) Chapters work with ACS State Affairs staff to organize and implement a bleeding control training as part of your lobby day or other Chapter activity.

Bleeding control kits can be purchased at [www.stopthebleedofficial.com](http://www.stopthebleedofficial.com).

For more information on ACS Stop the Bleed trainings and materials contact:  
[stopthebleed@facs.org](mailto:stopthebleed@facs.org)

If you are interested in bleeding control legislation for your state, contact:

ACS State Affairs Team  
[stateaffairs@facs.org](mailto:stateaffairs@facs.org)

Jimm Dodd , Senior Manager, ACS Stop the Bleed Program  
312-202-5376  
[jdodd@facs.org](mailto:jdodd@facs.org)

# State Legislative Strategies

The public can and should act as immediate responders to stop bleeding from all hazards, including recreational, car, and farming accidents; active shooter and intentional mass casualty events. As such, the ACS put significant emphasis on the development and availability of bleeding control training to enable the public to respond to victims of a traumatic event to stop or slow life-threatening bleeding until professional emergency responders arrive.

The ACS believes bleeding control training, similar to CPR training, should be available to the public and, as with automatic external defibrillators (AED), bleeding control equipment should be readily available in public and private locations so people can easily and rapidly access the equipment.

There are several different state legislative strategies and resources the ACS can offer to expand the use and availability of bleeding control kits training in the states:

- Provide bleeding control training at state capitols for legislators and their staff
- Advocate for bleeding control kits and training in schools
- Advocate for bleeding control kits and training in public buildings
- Work with state officials to pass resolutions or proclamations to recognize STOP THE BLEED® Day
- Establish various public and private coalitions

# Model Legislation

Bleeding control kits in public buildings and schools is crucial and provides readily available tools to combat emergencies involving severe bleeding. **From schools, libraries, and museums to government buildings and transportation hubs**, bleeding control kits can drastically improve the public's ability to respond effectively in critical situations.

The availability of bleeding control kits and training in public buildings and schools serves as a lifeline, providing readily accessible tools to control potentially life-threatening bleeding. These kits typically contain essential items such as **tourniquets, wound packing gauze pads, and bandages**, enabling bystanders to take immediate action in the crucial minutes following an injury.

The implementation of bleeding control training in public spaces or schools offers a multitude of benefits, including:

- Enhanced emergency preparedness: By equipping communities, school students and educators with bleeding control kits and training, communities are **better prepared to respond to severe bleeding injuries, regardless of the cause**.
- Empowerment of individuals: Bleeding control training empowers individuals to **become active participants in their own safety and the safety of others**, fostering a sense of responsibility and resilience.
- Reduced morbidity and mortality: Early intervention and proper bleeding control can **significantly reduce the risk of death or permanent disability** following severe bleeding injuries.

The ACS state affairs staff prepared the following model legislation to use when speaking with legislators about implementing a bleeding control law in states. The examples include public buildings, schools, and state-owned buildings.

Any questions or concerns regarding the model legislation may be directed to the ACS State Affairs staff at [stateaffairs@facs.org](mailto:stateaffairs@facs.org). Questions regarding training may be directed to Jimm Dodd, Senior Manager of the ACS Stop the Bleed program at [jdodd@facs.org](mailto:jdodd@facs.org) or [stopthebleed@facs.org](http://stopthebleed@facs.org).



# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Buildings

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION TO REQUIRE THE PLACEMENT OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS IN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AREAS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, TO SPECIFY THE REQUIRED CONTENTS OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY RELATED TO THESE REQUIREMENTS

**WHEREAS**, The number one cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding; traumatic bleeding can cause death in as little as 3-5 minutes. The average time for 1<sup>st</sup> responders to arrive on scene is 7-10 minutes.

**WHEREAS**, The National STOP THE BLEED® Campaign increases awareness of the Department of Defense and American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed program and its goal to connect bleeding control instructors and training with interested citizens throughout the year;

**WHEREAS**, It is imperative there be greater availability of bleeding control kits in accessible areas of school campuses which are easy to transport to be quickly used during traumatic casualty events;

Be it enacted by the [HOUSE/SENATE/COUNCIL] of the [STATE/CITY/MUNICIPALITY]:

**SECTION 1.** Code \_\_\_\_ is amended by adding:

## **DEFINITIONS:**

“Public Building”, means any building located in a community, locality, city, or town used primarily by the general public as well as any building owned by the [STATE] or a town, city or municipal government within the [STATE], including but not limited to public and private schools; libraries; transportation facilities; recreational facilities; entertainment and sporting venues; and other privately owned buildings or spaces the general public has access.

“Maintaining a bleeding control kit” means restocking a bleeding control kit after each use. Replace any materials, supplies, and equipment as necessary to maintain the required contents as outlined in Subsection D.

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Buildings

“ACS bleeding control or similar bleeding control training program” means a training curriculum shall adhere to standards established and recognized by medical organizations specializing in trauma care, i.e. The American College of Surgeons, American Red Cross, or any other program approved by the Department of Defense, covering topics which must include:

- (1) recognizing life-threatening bleeding;
- (2) applying direct pressure and wound packing;
- (3) applying commercial-grade tourniquets and the use of hemostatic agents; and
- (4) Providing care until professional medical assistance arrives.

“Trauma Kit Designee” a person trained by a representative of an approved Department of Defense bleeding control program, i.e., American College of Surgeons or other equivalent state approved medical organizations.

(A) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“public access trauma kit” or “bleeding control kit” means a first aid response kit that contains at a minimum the following:

- (1) one tourniquet recommended by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC);
- (2) wound packing gauze;
- (3) one compression bandage;
- (4) one hemostatic bleeding control dressing recommended by the CoTCCC;
- (5) protective gloves and a marker;
- (6) bandage shears;
- (7) instructional documents developed by the Stop the Bleed national awareness campaign of the American College of Surgeons, American Red Cross, or any other program approved by the Department of Defense; and
- (8) other medical materials and equipment similar to those described in items (1) to (6), inclusive, and any additional items that:
  - (a) are approved by local law enforcement or first responders;
  - (b) can adequately treat a traumatic injury; and
  - (c) can be stored in a readily available kit.



# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Buildings

- (B) All public buildings defined under Section 1 shall be required to have clearly visible centrally located, and easily accessible public access trauma kits or bleeding control kits as defined in Section 1 and in a number adequate to service the population of the building at maximum capacity.
- (1) any building falling under the purview of subsection (B) shall be required to have on staff an appropriately qualified trauma kit designee as defined under Section 1;
  - (2) for the purposes of organizational efficiency, buildings that maintain automated external defibrillator (AED) pursuant to [STATE] law (*where applicable*) may share the same storage space for the AED and the public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit as well as designate the same person both an AED provider and Trauma Kit Designee.
- (C) In order to ensure public safety, a trauma kit designee, person, or entity that supplies a public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit shall do all of the following:
- (1) notify an agent of the local EMS agency of the existence, location, and contents of public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit acquired;
  - (2) provide the acquirer of the public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit with all information governing the use, installation, operation, training, and maintenance of the public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit.
- (D) All materials and supplies shall remain present within bleeding control kits through the following measures:
- (1) Trauma Kit Designee shall conduct regular inspections of all bleeding control kits under their jurisdiction to ensure completeness and readiness for use;
  - (2) inspections shall include checking for the presence of essential supplies, verifying expiration dates, and assessing the overall condition of the kit and its contents;
  - (3) an inventory log shall be maintained, documenting the date of each inspection, any findings or deficiencies, and actions taken to address them.

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Buildings

## (E) Good Samaritan Provision

- (1) a person or entity that acquires a public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit for emergency care for a structure defined in Section 1 that is constructed and occupied shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in the rendering of the emergency care by use of a public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit if that person or entity has complied with subsection (C).
- (2) any person who, in good faith and not for compensation, renders emergency care or treatment by the use of a public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit at the scene of an emergency is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in rendering the emergency care if the public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit is checked for readiness after each use and at least once a year if it has not been used in the preceding year.
- (3) a person or entity that provides first care provider training for the use of a public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit to a person who renders emergency care pursuant to subdivision (b) is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions of the person rendering the emergency care.
- (4) a person or entity that provides active shooter awareness training is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions of the person rendering the emergency care.
- (5) the protections specified in this section do not apply in the case of personal injury or wrongful death that result from the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the person who renders emergency care or treatment by the use of a public access trauma kit or bleeding control kit.

**SECTION 3.** This act takes effect [DATE. TBD]

## SUMMARY

Proposes the implementation of bleeding control kits in easily accessible areas of all public buildings. The kits shall contain essential supplies such as: tourniquet, wound packing gauze, compression bandages, and instructional documents. The bill also mandates training for a trauma kit designee on bleeding control techniques and integration of the use of the trauma kits into any building emergency plans and drills. Regular maintenance and inspection of the trauma kit is required, with guidelines for restocking after each use. The bill protects efforts to use bleeding control kits under conditions that the provider has completed the required training and is acting in good faith.

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Schools

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION TO REQUIRE THE PLACEMENT OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS IN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AREAS OF EACH SCHOOL TO SPECIFY THE REQUIRED CONTENTS OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS, TO REQUIRE CERTAIN TRAINING OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO USE BLEEDING CONTROL KITS, TO INTEGRATE USE OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS INTO DISTRICT EMERGENCY PLANS AND EMERGENCY DRILLS, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY RELATED TO THESE REQUIREMENTS.

WHEREAS, The number one cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding; traumatic bleeding can cause death in as little as 3-5 minutes. The average time for 1<sup>st</sup> responders to arrive on scene is 7-10 minutes.

WHEREAS, The national STOP THE BLEED® campaign increases awareness of the Department of Defense and American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed program and its goal to connect bleeding control instructors with interested citizens throughout the month of May, for National STOP THE BLEED® Month, National STOP THE BLEED® Day or National Trauma Awareness Month;

WHEREAS, It is imperative there be greater availability of bleeding control kits in accessible areas of school campuses which are easy to transport to be quickly used during traumatic events,

Be it enacted by the [GENERAL ASSEMBLY/SENATE] of the [STATE/CITY/MUNICIPALITY]:

**SECTION 1.** Code [CITATION] is amended by adding:

## **DEFINITIONS:**

“School” means an educational institution that provides instruction to students including public, charter, or any nonpublic school in this [STATE] which is in session each school year for at least one hundred eighty (180) school days.

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Schools

“Maintaining a bleeding control kit” means restocking a bleeding control kit after each use. Replace any materials, supplies, and equipment as necessary to maintain the required contents.

“ACS bleeding control or similar bleeding control training program” means a training curriculum shall adhere to standards established and recognized by medical organizations specializing in trauma care, i.e. The American College of Surgeons, American Red Cross, or any other program approved by the Department of Defense, covering topics which must include:

- (1) recognizing life-threatening bleeding;
- (2) applying direct pressure and wound packing;
- (3) applying commercial-grade tourniquets and the use of hemostatic agents; and
- (4) providing care until professional medical assistance arrives.

## SECTION 2

(A) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings: “public access trauma kit” or “bleeding control kit” means a first aid response kit that contains at a minimum the following:

- (1) one commercial-grade tourniquet endorsed by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC);
- (2) wound packing gauze;
- (3) one compression bandage;
- (4) one hemostatic bleeding control dressing endorsed by the CoTCCC;
- (5) protective gloves and a marker;
- (6) scissors;
- (7) instructional documents developed by the STOP THE BLEED® national awareness campaign of the United States Department of Defense or the American College of Surgeons, or both; and
- (8) other medical materials and equipment similar to those described in items (1) to (6), inclusive, and any additional items that:
  - (a) are approved by local law enforcement or first responders;
  - (b) can adequately treat a traumatic injury; and
  - (c) can be stored in a readily available kit.

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Schools

- (B) The school district may maintain an on-site trauma kit at each school for bleeding emergencies.
- (C) At least once every two years, the board shall conduct in-service training for all school district employees on the methods to respond to trauma. The training must include instruction on how to respond to an incident involving life-threatening bleeding and, if applicable, how to use a school's trauma kit. The board may satisfy the training requirements under this subsection by using the training, including online training, available from the American College of Surgeons or any other similar organization.
- (D) Each school shall:
  - (1) require bleeding control kits be assigned to designated areas easily accessible locations i.e., AED, fire extinguisher, Narcan, first aid kits, etc.;
  - (2) include bleeding control kits in the emergency response plans, including the presentation and use of the kits in all drills and emergencies;
  - (3) include maintaining bleeding control kits to be inspected to ensure that materials, supplies, and equipment contained in the bleeding control kit are not expired; and
  - (4) replace any expired materials, supplies, and equipment as necessary.
- (E) All materials and supplies shall remain present within bleeding control kits through the following measures:
  - (1) Bleeding control kit custodians shall conduct regular inspections of all bleeding control kits under their jurisdiction to ensure completeness and readiness for use.
  - (2) inspections shall include checking for the presence of essential supplies, verifying expiration dates, and assessing the overall condition of the bleeding control kit and its contents.
  - (3) an inventory log shall be maintained, documenting the date of each inspection, any findings or deficiencies, and actions taken to address them.
- (F) The department shall develop training for the use of bleeding control kits, which the department may satisfy by using training available from the American College of Surgeons or any other Department of Defense approved program, [STATE MEDICAL AUTHORITY], Committee on Trauma or other [STATE APPROVED ORGANIZATION].

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in Public Schools

(G) School employees trained to respond to trauma pursuant to this [SECTION] shall be immune from civil liability in the use of a bleeding control kit unless the action constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

[Add percentage of completion for adherence to BILL]

SECTION 3 . This act takes effect [DATE. TBD]

## SUMMARY

Proposes the implementation of bleeding control kits in easily accessible areas of all school facilities or campuses. The kits shall contain essential supplies such as: tourniquet, wound packing gauze, compression bandages, and instructional documents. The bill also mandates training for school employees on bleeding control techniques and integration of the use of the bleeding control kits into emergency plans and drills. Regular maintenance and inspection of the bleeding control kit is required, with guidelines for restocking after each use. The bill protects efforts to use bleeding control kits under conditions that the provider has completed the required training and is acting in good faith.



# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in State Owned Buildings

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION TO REQUIRE THE PLACEMENT OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS IN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AREAS IN STATE BUILDINGS, TO SPECIFY THE REQUIRED CONTENTS OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF BLEEDING CONTROL KITS, AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY RELATED TO THESE REQUIREMENTS

**WHEREAS**, The number one cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding; traumatic bleeding can cause death in as little as 3-5 minutes. The average time for 1<sup>st</sup> responders to arrive on scene is 7-10 minutes.

**WHEREAS**, The National STOP THE BLEED® Campaign increases awareness of the American College of Surgeons STOP THE BLEED® program and its goal to connect bleeding control instructors with interested citizens throughout the month of May 2023, for National STOP THE BLEED® Month or National Trauma Awareness Month;

**WHEREAS**, It is imperative there be greater availability of bleeding control kits in accessible areas of school campuses which are easy to transport to be quickly used during traumatic events,

Be it enacted by the [HOUSE/SENATE/COUNCIL] of the [STATE/CITY/MUNICIPALITY]:

AN ACT requiring bleeding control kits to be available in state-owned buildings.

**SECTION 1.** Code \_\_\_\_ is amended by adding:

A bleeding control kit shall be installed and readily available in selected state-owned and state-occupied buildings.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

“State Owned Building” means any building owned by the [STATE].

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in State Owned Buildings

“Maintaining a bleeding control kit” means restocking a bleeding control kit after each use. Replace any materials, supplies, and equipment as necessary to maintain the required contents and as outlined in Subsection D.

“ACS bleeding control or similar bleeding control training program” means a training curriculum shall adhere to standards established and recognized by medical organizations specializing in trauma care, i.e. The American College of Surgeons, American Red Cross, or any other program approved by the Department of Defense, covering topics which must include:

- (1) recognizing life-threatening bleeding;
- (2) applying direct pressure and wound packing;
- (3) applying commercial-grade tourniquets and the use of hemostatic agents; and
- (4) providing care until professional medical assistance arrives.

(A) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings: “public access trauma kit” or “bleeding control kit” means a first aid response kit that contains at a minimum the following:

- (1) one commercial-grade tourniquet endorsed by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC);
- (2) wound packing gauze;
- (3) one compression bandage;
- (4) one hemostatic bleeding control dressing endorsed by the CoTCCC;
- (5) protective gloves and a marker;
- (6) scissors;
- (7) instructional documents developed by the STOP THE BLEED® national awareness campaign of the United States Department of Defense or the American College of Surgeons, or both; and
- (8) other medical materials and equipment similar to those described in items (1) to (6), inclusive, and any additional items that:
  - (a) are approved by local law enforcement or first responders;
  - (b) can adequately treat a traumatic injury; and
  - (c) can be stored in a readily available kit.

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in State Owned Buildings

- (B) All state-owned buildings defined under Section 1 shall be required to have clearly visible centrally located, and easily accessible public access trauma kits or bleeding control kits as defined in Section 1 and in a number adequate to service the population of the building at maximum capacity.
- (C) The department of administrative services, in consultation with the department of safety's bureau of emergency medical services and the emergency medical services medical control board established in [DEPARTMENT/AGENCY], shall identify buildings in which the placement of a bleeding control kit is appropriate and should be prioritized, as well as criteria for the order of placement and a schedule for future placements.
- (D) Medical materials and equipment similar to those described in subparagraphs A(1) to (6), and any additional items that are approved by the local EMS medical control, as defined in [CITATION] may be included as supplements in addition to the items described in subparagraphs A(1) to (6), if they adequately treat a traumatic injury and can be stored in a readily available kit.
- (E) All materials and supplies shall remain present within bleeding control kits through the following measures:
  - (1) regular inspections of all bleeding control kits under their jurisdiction to ensure completeness and readiness for use;
  - (2) inspections shall include checking for the presence of essential supplies, verifying expiration dates, and assessing the overall condition of the kit and its contents;
  - (3) an inventory log shall be maintained, documenting the date of each inspection, any findings or deficiencies, and actions taken to address them.
- (F) Nothing in this section shall require a property manager or person employed by a property managing entity on behalf of the state to respond to an emergency with the use of bleeding control kits.
- (G) This section shall not apply to a state-owned building that is vacant or under construction or renovation.

# Model Legislation: Bleeding Control Kits in State Owned Buildings

(H) Liability limited. Any person who, in good faith and without compensation, renders emergency care by the use of a bleeding control kit shall not be liable for civil damages for any acts or omissions unless the acts or omissions were grossly negligent or purposeful.

**SECTION 3.** This act takes effect [DATE].

## SUMMARY

Proposes the implementation of bleeding control kits in easily accessible areas of all state-owned buildings. The kits shall contain essential supplies such as: tourniquet, wound packing gauze, compression bandages, and instructional documents. Regular maintenance and inspection of the bleeding control kit is required, with guidelines for restocking after each use. The bill protects efforts to use bleeding control kits under conditions that the provider has completed the required training and is acting in good faith.

# Model Resolution: State STOP THE BLEED® Day

This measure proclaims May [DAY] as STOP THE BLEED® Day in [STATE].

**WHEREAS**, When a person is losing blood, every second counts, and the American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed program is informing Americans about vital measures to aid trauma victims; and

**WHEREAS**, The initiative was created when the American College of Surgeons convened senior health care leaders and the Department of Defense to produce a program to improve survival for victims suffering from bleeding injuries, and their review led to development of the STOP THE BLEED® campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, in [STATE], implementation of the program is being guided by [STATE CHAPTER], a member of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and [STATE CHAPTER] of the American College of Surgeons; and

**WHEREAS**, Because a trauma victim can bleed to death within minutes, before professional emergency care arrives, the program teaches ordinary citizens bleeding-control techniques developed by the Department of Defense and first responders to help citizens become immediate responders; and

**WHEREAS**, Bleeding control training uses bleeding control kits that include tools such as tourniquets, dressings, and topical hemostatic agents to help bystanders offer swift assistance at the scene of an accident, mass casualty trauma event, or other incident; and

**WHEREAS**, these bleeding control kits can be affixed to walls in public places, much like the automated external defibrillators (AED) with which most modern buildings are furnished; and

**WHEREAS**, The STOP THE BLEED® campaign is empowering citizens across the country to save lives in situations when time is of the absolute essence; and

**WHEREAS**, May 23<sup>rd</sup> has been designated as the National STOP THE BLEED® Day by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, By the Legislature of [STATE] hereby recognize the STOP THE BLEED® campaign and encourage all [STATE'S] citizens to participate in the initiative and learn more about the importance of bleeding-control measures; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That May [DAY] is designated as STOP THE BLEED® Day in the State of [STATE].

# Sample Letter to Legislators

DATE

The Honorable [LEGISLATOR NAME], Chair  
[ADDRESS]  
[ADDRESS]  
[CITY], [STATE] [ZIP]

**RE: Support [HOUSE/SENATE] Bill [NUMBER]**

Dear Representative [NAME]:

On behalf of more than 90,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and the [NUMBER OF STATE MEMBERS] members of the [STATE] Chapter of the ACS we are writing to express our strong support of [HOUSE/SENATE] Bill [NUMBER].

[HOUSE/SENATE] Bill [NUMBER] mandates the installation of bleeding control equipment on each school campus throughout the state to use in the case of a traumatic bleeding injury, potentially saving lives. Similar to Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) and naloxone (Narcan), bleeding control kits provide a simple and effective way to help save lives of victims suffering severe bleeding injuries while waiting for professional emergency responders to arrive.

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma in collaboration with the medical community, Department of Defense, and other agencies created recommendations to develop resources to train people to take action after an accident or a mass casualty trauma event. The bleeding control kits and trainings empower your constituents to take action when tragedy strikes.

[HOUSE/SENATE] Bill [NUMBER] is a major component to ensuring lifesaving tools and resources are available to students and school personnel for accidents or other traumatic events with severe bleeding injuries and is in line with the Hartford Consensus and bleeding control course initiatives. [Here](#) is a brief YouTube video describing how bleeding control training saved the life of a young skier.

I urge you to support [HOUSE/SENATE] Bill [NUMBER] The first step to saving lives is to stop the bleed.

Sincerely,  
[ACS PRESIDENT]

[CHAPTER PRESIDENT]



# Sample Action Alert

## Intro Text for Action Alert

A proposed bill in the legislature, [BILL], would mandate the installation of bleeding control kits in public buildings throughout the state to use in the case of an accident or mass casualty event to stop traumatic bleeding injuries and save lives.

Contact your [REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR] today and urge them to support [BILL].

Similar to automated electronic defibrillators (AEDs) and naloxone (Narcan), bleeding control kits are a simple and effective way to help save lives of victims suffering severe bleeding injuries as a result of an accident or traumatic casualty event by stopping the bleed while waiting for professional emergency responders to arrive.

Click the button below to send an email to your Legislator TODAY.

## Email to Legislators

Dear [REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR]:

I am writing to urge you to support [BILL].

[BILL] would mandate the installation of bleeding control kits in public buildings throughout the state to use in the case of a mass casualty event to stop traumatic bleeding injuries and save lives. Similar to automated electronic defibrillators (AEDs), bleeding control kits are a simple and effective way to help save lives of victims suffering severe bleeding injuries as a result of an accident or traumatic casualty event by stopping the bleed while waiting for professional emergency responders to arrive. The legislation calls for the bleeding control kits to be installed just like AEDs are located in [PUBLIC BUILDINGS/SCHOOLS/STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS].

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma in collaboration with the medical community, Department of Defense and other governmental and nongovernmental emergency medical response organizations developed resources to train people to take action after an accident or mass casualty trauma event. The “STOP THE BLEED® campaign is a culmination of these recommendations as detailed at <https://www.stopthebleed.org/>.

# Sample Action Alert

[BILL] is a major component to ensuring that lifesaving tools and resources are available to the public after an accident or mass casualty event as well as in case of other traumatic events where there are severe bleeding injuries.

I urge you to support [BILL].

Sincerely,

# Sample Media Advisory

## Contact

Name

Phone

Email

## Surgeons Promote Bleeding Control Campaign in State Capitol; Call for Public Awareness and Action to Save Lives

**CITY** – On **DATE**, Surgeon Fellows of the [**STATE**] Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) will be meeting with state legislators in the capitol to educate lawmakers about the ACS Stop the Bleed program and demonstrate the importance of being prepared to save lives in mass casualty situations.

The national STOP THE BLEED® campaign came about from the ACS-led Hartford Consensus that determined no one should die from uncontrolled bleeding as a result of a traumatic injury, and all citizens should know how to act and have access to resources to control bleeding injuries just as education and resources are made available for CPR and defibrillators.

“The best tool we have to save lives after an accident or mass casualty trauma situation is a well-trained public with readily available access to basic bleeding resources such as a tourniquet and wound packing gauze,” says [**NAME**]. Bleeding control training should be just as well-known and widely available as training for using CPR and defibrillators.”

[**REPRESENTATIVE/ASSEMBLYMEMBER/DELEGATE or SENATOR NAME**] introduced [**HOUSE/SENATE BILL/RESOLUTION NUMBER**] “recognizing the STOP THE BLEED® campaign and encourage all citizens to participate in the initiative and learn more about the importance of bleeding control measures.”

A table with information and demonstrations about bleeding control will be available in the [**LOCATION**] on [**DATE**] from [**TIME**].

# Talking Points

- Severe bleeding injuries can result from falling, vehicle crashes, farming accidents, natural disasters, gunshot wounds, sporting injuries and more.
- ACS Stop the Bleed training and the use of bleeding control kits will help to provide precious time for severely injured patients and will save lives.
- Victims with traumatic bleeding can die from blood loss in as little as 5 minutes.
- After traumatic injury, every minute the bleeding is controlled increases the chances of patient survival.
- ACS Stop the Bleed training teaches participants how to safely use direct pressure, wound packing, and tourniquet application to control life-threatening bleeding.
- Bleeding control kits were designed to be used by members of the community regardless of age.
- Like public AEDs, providing visible, public access bleeding control kits is an effective way to allow the public to render effective techniques to save victims suffering from severe bleeding injuries while waiting for emergency responders to arrive.
- The American College of Surgeons can provide bleeding control training for free and have taught more than 5 million people to date.

# Contact

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For questions, requests for further information or assistance with advocacy initiatives regarding bleeding control legislation, contact ACS State Affairs at [stateaffairs@facs.org](mailto:stateaffairs@facs.org) or Jimm Dodd, Senior Manager, ACS Stop the Bleed program at [jdodd@facs.org](mailto:jdodd@facs.org).

For questions regarding bleeding control training and ordering bleeding control kits contact [stopthebleed@facs.org](mailto:stopthebleed@facs.org).