



California Chapters

Northern, Southern, San Diego-Imperial

American College of Surgeons

August 24, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for Signature AB 2260 (Rodriguez) - Emergency Response: Trauma Kits

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the three California Chapters of the American College of Surgeons, we respectfully request you sign Assembly Bill 2260 - Emergency Response: Trauma Kits. This bill would require the installation of trauma bleeding control kits in newly constructed public and private buildings already required to be equipped with Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs). These life-saving bleeding control kits will enable Californians to administer simple techniques to those suffering from heavy bleeding, including during mass casualty events.

STOP THE BLEED® kits similar to those defined in AB 2260 can dramatically reduce mortality by enabling bystanders to save lives during the crucial minutes immediately following a bleeding traumatic injury. According to the National Institutes of Health, the average time for emergency responders to arrive on scene after a 911 call is 7 minutes. For rural and underserved areas, the wait increases from 14 to 30 minutes or longer. Victims with traumatic bleeding can die from blood loss in as little as 5 minutes. For that reason, every second is critical to save trauma patients.

Following the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma in collaboration with the White House, United States military, federal government, and other emergency medical response organizations, published recommendations referred to as the Hartford Consensus. As a direct result, a training

campaign titled, "STOP THE BLEED" was launched by the Department of Defense (DoD) and its partners. STOP THE BLEED® trauma kits were designed to be used by members in the community regardless of age. Training for STOP THE BLEED® is supplied free to all by DoD accredited training partners, including the American College of Surgeons (ACS) which has trained over 2.1 million people to date. For this training to be effective, the tools must be available where they are needed in the community.

STOP THE BLEED® training teaches participants how to safely use direct pressure, gauze, and tourniquets to stop life-threatening bleeding. These items are often not found in traditional first aid kits. Like public AEDs, providing visible, public access trauma kits is an effective way to allow the public to render effective first aid to save victims suffering from severe bleeding injuries while waiting for emergency responders to arrive.

Accessible trauma kits and widespread training will save the lives of more severely injured patients. AB 2260 will ensure that trauma kits are available in California's buildings and public spaces when they are needed most. We strongly urge you to sign AB 2260, which will help save more lives and stop the bleed.

Sincerely,



Christine Cocanour, MD, FACS
President, Northern California Chapter



Farin Amersi, MD, FACS
President, Southern California Chapter



Sapideh Gilani, MD, FACS
President, San Diego-Imperial Chapter