



Media Alert

For Immediate Release
Save A Life Foundation
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IL. GOVERNOR SIGNS LIFE SAVING FIRST AID BILL INTO LAW

Illinois Governor Jim Edgar signed SB#1477, into law September 16th, 1994. This mandate requires all police officers and firefighters to be trained in CPR and First Aid life saving skills prior to graduating from their respective training academies and went into affect January 1st, 1995.

Carol J. Spizzirri knew little of how legislation was adopted when she lead the campaign a few months after her daughter Christina died, when her arm was severed, after being involved in a accident .The police who first arrived at the scene refused to render aid because it wasn't part of their job

description to learn life saving skills, thus Christina bleed to death prior to the paramedic's arrival. SB#1477 was sponsored by IL. Sen. Robert Raica (R-Cook), and co-sponsored by Sen. Walter Dudycz (R Cook), Jesus Garca (D-Cook), Wm. Peterson (R-Lake), and Don Trotter (D-Cook), This bipartisan bill was supported by Sen. Stanley Weaver (R-Champaign), "Pate" Philip (R-Dupage) and most of the IL. Senate. IL. Rep. Jay Hoffman (D-Madison) lead SB#1477 through the House, with Virginia Frederick (R-Lk), Mary Flowers (D-Cook), Monroe Flinn (D-St. Clair), and Michael Madigan (D-Cook) co-sponsoring the measure.

Secretary of State George Ryan,, IL. Parents-Teachers-Association, National Safety Council, Illinois State Troopers, added by all the fire and police unions defended this legislation through it's entirety.

Save A Life Foundation's president and founder Carol J. Spizzirri said , "This law is one step closer to saving lives in an emergency." "Most people already assume that police officers and firefighters, teachers, etc., are required to know life saving first aid, meanwhile over 200,000 of our children die year because life saving skills aren't being administered promptly in an emergency." she said. Carol stressed, "50% of all fatalities could be saved, if prompt basic life saving procedures were given".

To reinforce the measure, IL Congressman Dick Durban (D-20) passed an Appropriations Bill through both Houses, supporting the training and re-training of police officers and emergency personnel in CPR and First Aid skills. Durban said, "It is essential to insure that police and other emergency service personnel have adequate training in First Aid and CPR".

The IL. CPR/First Aid Law for police officers and firefighters, of January 95 is being followed with similar federal legislation for teachers, coaches, and all public servants, by State Senators Gerry Studds (MA-D), Paul Simon (IL-D) and Carol Mosley-Braun (IL-D) Congressman Luis Gutierrez (IL-4). "It is a sad fact of modern life that our children and young adults need basic awareness of life-saving skills now more than ever". said Gutierrez.

Save A Life Foundation has gone on with it's efforts to assure prompt emergency aid by developing the Save A Life Fundamentals for Kids program. David Hasselhoff, well known for starring on the television show BAYWATCH, is the Honoree Chairman for the Save A Life Foundation, and intends to endorse this program. It will allow firefighters and paramedics to teach children 4 years and older, how to call for emergency medical services and what to do until professionals arrive.

Interest in this program has reached numerous Chicago area fire departments with plans of adopting it as D.A.R.E. has been adopted by the police. Judy Berk, Health Chair of the Illinois State PTA who sits on the S.A.L.F. for Kids committee, intend to assist fire personal by helping to open school doors for the SALF for Kids program.

May, 1996 the Third Annual Save A Life Week will be underway. Since 1993 Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and Governor George Allen of Virginia have proclaimed this event, that opens hospital, fire department, and health agencies doors throughout the state, teaching life saving first aid to their community. By incorporating this event with EMS month, local residents will recognize the value of the community Emergency Medical Service system.

"We have a long road ahead". "Not only to we have to make American's aware that everyone is affected by emergencies and that basic steps must be learned now, we also have to assure them that when they do act in another's behave, they will be protected by "Good Samaritan" laws. said Carol.

"Quoting the former U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everette Koop, "If a disease were killing our children in the portions that accidents are, people would be outraged and demand that this killer be stopped."

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