

Senate Resolution 684

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Jackson of the 41st, Parent of the 44th, Dixon of the 45th, Mangham of the 55th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing February 2026 as American Heart Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death worldwide, and each year more than
3 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of hospitals in the United States, with approximately
4 10 percent of people surviving; and
- 5 WHEREAS, about 70 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home, meaning that
6 people nearby—often family members—are the first and most critical link in the chain of
7 survival; and
- 8 WHEREAS, immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can double or even triple a
9 person's chance of survival, yet only about 41 percent of people who experience cardiac
10 arrest receive immediate CPR from someone nearby, and fewer than 12 percent receive aid
11 from an automated external defibrillator (AED) before advanced help arrives; and
- 12 WHEREAS, for adults and teens, Hands-Only CPR, calling 911, and pushing hard and fast
13 in the center of the chest can double or triple the chance of survival, while infants and
14 children require CPR with rescue breaths to restore oxygen and circulation; and

15 WHEREAS, each year more than 23,000 children experience cardiac arrest outside of the
16 hospital, with almost 40 percent related to sports and nearly 20 percent occurring among
17 infants; cardiac arrest accounts for 10 to 15 percent of sudden unexpected infant deaths; and

18 WHEREAS, studies show that women are less likely than men to receive CPR before
19 advanced help arrives due to fear of causing harm, perceived legal risk, or discomfort about
20 physical contact-factors that must be addressed through education and awareness; and

21 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association has set a bold goal to double survival from
22 out-of-hospital cardiac arrest by 2030 through its "Nation of Lifesavers" initiative,
23 empowering people everywhere to confidently perform CPR and use AEDs; and

24 WHEREAS, straightforward, community-based solutions such as CPR and AED education,
25 public access to defibrillators, and cardiac emergency response plans (CERPs) in schools,
26 workplaces, and public spaces can save lives and strengthen community readiness.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 recognize February 2026 as American Heart Month at the state capitol and encourage all
29 residents to learn CPR, promote awareness of cardiac arrest and emergency response, and
30 join the effort to build a "Nation of Lifesavers," ensuring that every person, everywhere, is
31 prepared to act in a cardiac emergency.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
34 press.