

Testimony in Support of LD 774 – "STOP THE BLEED®" Bill

Bryan Morse, MD, Trauma Medical Director, Portland

March 24, 2025

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

My name is Dr. Bryan Morse, and I am the Trauma Medical Director at Maine's only verified Level 1 Trauma Center. I am here today to express my strong support for LD 774, which mandates the presence of bleeding control kits in state-owned buildings across Maine.

1. Traumatic injury is the #1 cause of death and morbidity in young people ages 1 to 44 years old not only in Maine but also across the United States.
2. Uncontrolled hemorrhage is the leading cause of preventable death in trauma victims.
3. The "Golden Hour" is the critical first hour after a traumatic injury where hemorrhage control specifically has the most significant impact on survival; however, the clock starts immediately – not when an ambulance arrives.

In my role, I've seen firsthand countless deaths where simple bleeding control with a tourniquet, gauze packing, or basic direct pressure in the field would have saved a life. Because many parts of Maine are rural and there is only one level 1 trauma center, many lives are lost to bleeding during that Golden Hour where control was needed at the moment of injury. To improve survival, these hemorrhage control kits, which are simple and cost-effective, should be widely and readily available to the public.

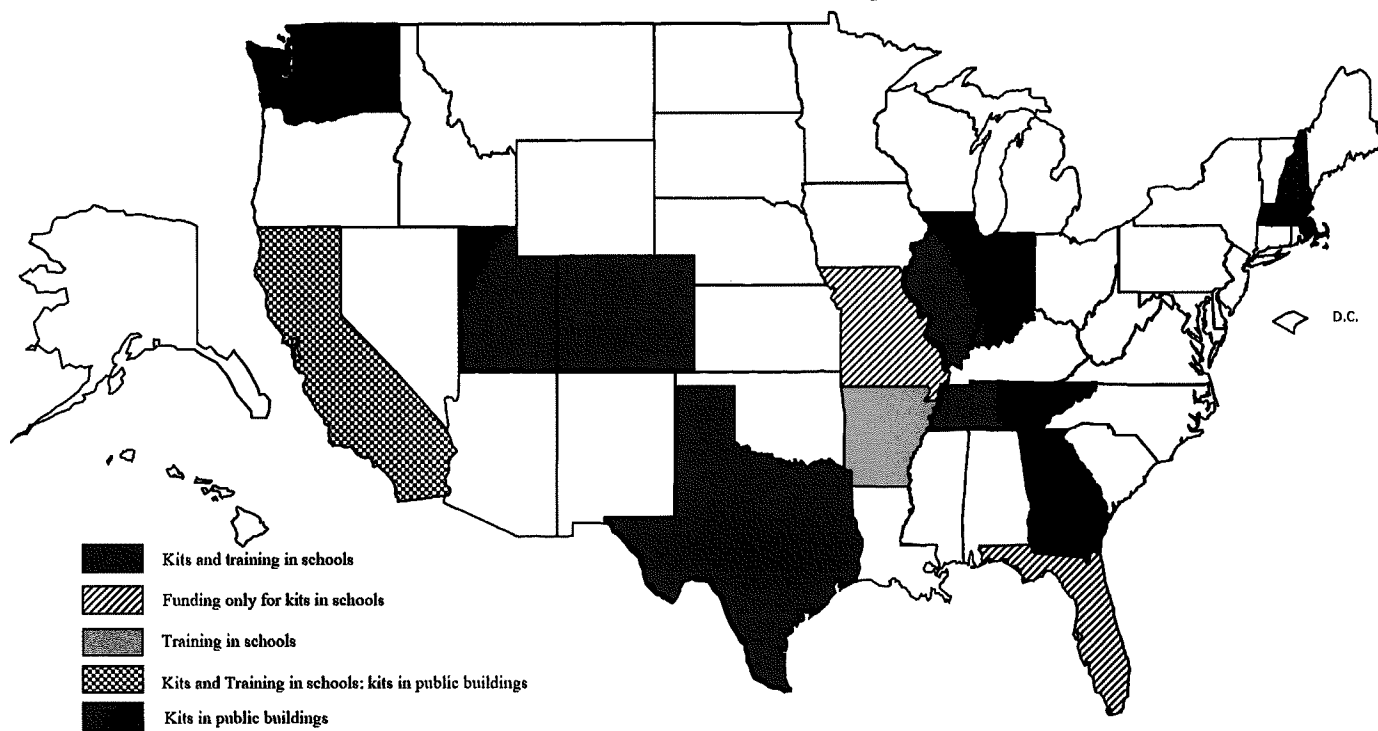
The *STOP THE BLEED®* program, developed by the Department of Homeland Security and the American College of Surgeons, has proven to be one of the most effective initiatives in immediate control of traumatic bleeding by bystanders. This legislation aligns with a growing national trend, as Maine would become the 12th state to act on such a bill. Additionally, there is growing national interest in *STOP THE BLEED®* as the healthcare and political community acknowledge that trauma care begins not in the hospital, but at the moment of injury.

Our ability to treat traumatic injuries successfully depends on a coordinated response that begins with the public. By passing LD 774, you are taking a significant step in ensuring that all Mainers are equipped to help one another in times of crisis.

I would like to thank the committee for your time and for your consideration of this critical legislation. I strongly urge you to support LD 774 and help make Maine a safer, more resilient state for all of us.

Sincerely,
Bryan Morse, MD
Trauma Medical Director

STOP THE BLEED® Legislation



State	Kits in Schools	Training in Schools	Public Buildings	Funding
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas		Act 245-2019 Act 237-2023		
California	Chapter 515-2023	Chapter 515-2023	Chapter 515-2023	
Colorado	Chapter 187-2023			
Connecticut				
Delaware				
D.C.				
Florida	Chapter 2023-39			
Georgia	Trauma Commission Bleeding Control	Trauma Commission Bleeding Control		
Hawaii				
Idaho				
Illinois	Act 103-128	Act 103-128		
Indiana	Public Law 44	Public Law 44		Public Law 143
Iowa				
Kansas				
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland				
Massachusetts	Chapter 126-2022	Chapter 126-2022		Chapter 126-2022
Michigan				
Minnesota				
Mississippi				
Missouri				H 684
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada				
New Hampshire			Chapter 171-2023	
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				
Ohio				
Oklahoma				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee	Chapter 389-2021	Chapter 389-2021		
Texas	HB 496	HB 496		
Utah				Chapter 383- 2023
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington	Chapter 365-2024	Chapter 365-2024		
West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

* not mandatory

STATE STOP THE BLEED® LAWS

Arkansas

Act 245 2019

Introduced by Representative Julie Mayberry (R), HB 1014 mandates public schools provide bleeding control training to students in grades nine through twelve; training will be integrated into a health course; the board of education and department of health, will develop the training materials based on resources from recognized medical organizations; the State Board of Education will be enforcing this requirement. Governor Asa Hutchinson (R) signed the bill into law February 28, 2019.

Act 237 2023

Introduced by Senator Breanne Davis (R), SB 294 mandates training school nurses and staff to include bleeding control training. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the bill into law March 14, 2023.

California

Chapter 515, Statutes of 2023

Introduced by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (D), AB 70 requires a trauma kit in certain structures constructed prior to January 1, 2023, and subject to subsequent modifications, renovations, or tenant improvements, including:

- (1) Group A assembly buildings with an occupancy greater than 300.
- (2) Group B business buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more.
- (3) Group E educational buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more.
- (4) Group F factory buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more.
- (5) Group I institutional buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more.
- (6) Group M mercantile buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more.
- (7) Group R residential buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more, excluding single-family and multifamily dwelling units.

Governor Gavin Newsom (D) signed the bill into law October 9, 2023.

Chapter 586, Statutes of 2022

Introduced by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (D), AB 2260 requires buildings with a trauma kit to provide tenants with information governing the use and maintenance of the trauma kit; requires those responsible for managing the building, facility, and tenants including those that are owned by a local government entity, and that is constructed on or after January 1, 2023, to comply with certain requirements, including acquiring and placing at least six trauma kits on the premises, periodically inspecting and replacing the contents of a trauma kit, restocking the trauma kit after each use if the property managing entity is aware a trauma kit has been used; contains a Good Samaritan provision. Governor Gavin Newsom (D) signed the bill into law September 27, 2022.

Colorado

Chapter 187, 2023 Session Laws

Introduced by Representative Mary Bradfield (R), HB 1213 requires the public health and environment department to distribute bleeding control kits to each school choosing to provide STOP THE BLEED® training; appropriates \$150, for the purpose of purchasing and distributing bleeding control kits; schools with over 1,000 students will receive ten bleeding control kits, schools with between 500 and 1,00 will receive five bleeding control kits, and schools with less than 500 students will receive three bleeding control kits; all schools must opt into the program in order to receive kits. Governor Jared Polis (D) signed the bill into law May 15, 2023.

Florida

Chapter 2023-39

Introduced by Representative Alex Rizo (R), HB 1537 mandates bleeding control kits for placement in public schools. Governor Ron De Santis (R) signed the bill into law May 10, 2023.

Georgia

Georgia Trauma Commission Bleeding Control Program

In March 2017, the Georgia Trauma Commission launched a campaign to provide bleeding control kits and training to key staff in every Georgia public school and bus. This program gained national attention and was replicated by other states. To date, 99% of all Georgia public schools and 92% of public school buses have completed training and received bleeding control kits from the Georgia Trauma Commission

Illinois

Public Act 103-0128

Introduced by Representative Camille Lilly (D), HB 1561 amends the state education law to allow each school district to maintain an on-site trauma kit at each school in the district for bleeding emergencies; lists what the kits should contain; provides training requirements, including online training available from the ACS; provides civil immunity to school district employees who are trained, unless there is willful or wonton misconduct. Governor Jay Pritzker (D) signed the bill August 11, 2023

Indiana

Public Law 44

Introduced by Representative Randy Frye (R), HB 1063 requires each school to develop and implement a STOP THE BLEED® program; each school must have a minimum of five individuals in each school building who receives appropriate training in the use of the bleeding control kit; requires a school's safety plan to include the location of bleeding control kits; contains a Good Samaritan provision. Governor Eric Holcomb (R) signed the bill into law April 18, 2019.

Public Law 143

Introduced by Representative Mike Andrade (R), HB 1396 establishes a STOP THE BLEED® donation pool which provides qualified first responders with bleeding control kits; allows a public safety agency to request trauma bleeding control kits for school law enforcement officers. Governor Eric Holcomb (R) signed the bill into law May 1, 2023.

Massachusetts

Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022

Introduced by the House Steering and Policy Scheduling Committee, H 5050 requires not less than \$50,000 be spent for a STOP THE BLEED® pilot program to fund the procurement of trauma kits and bleeding control training for school faculty and staff in Bellingham, Dover, Medfield, Milford, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Plainville, Sherborn and Wrentham and Franklin. Governor Charlie Baker (R) signed the bill into law August 2, 2022.

Missouri

H 684 (Appropriation bill)

Introduced by Representative Cody Smith (R), HB 14 provides grants to establish school safety programs, including physical security upgrades, bleeding control kits, and automatic external defibrillators. Governor Mike Parson (R) signed the bill into law February 27, 2023.

New HampshireChapter 0171 2023

Introduced by Senator Suzanne Prentiss (D), SB 204 requires trauma kits be available in state-owned buildings; contains a Good Samaritan provision. Governor Chris Sununu (R) signed the bill into law August 1, 2023.

TennesseePublic Chapter 389 2021

Introduced by Representative John Clemmons (D), HB 212 mandates each local education agency to develop and implement a STOP THE BLEED® program in consultation with local law enforcement; all local education employees must receive training on how to use a bleeding control kit; establishes annual inspections of each bleeding control kit and mandates the replacement of items within the kit upon expiration or use; contains a Good Samaritan provision. Governor Bill Lee (R) signed the bill into law May 18, 2021

TexasHB 496

Introduced by Representative Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D), HB 496 mandates each school district develop a traumatic injury protocol for school employees and volunteers; establishes bleeding control stations are in easily accessible areas of the school campus selected by the district's school safety and security committee; all school district peace officers, resource officers and other school personnel who may reasonably be expected to use a bleeding control kit must receive annual agency-approved training on the use of a bleeding control station; contains a Good Samaritan provision. The bill was signed into law by Governor Gregg Abbott (R) June 15, 2019

UtahSession Law Chapter 383

Introduced by Representative Ryan Wilcox (R), HB 61 includes a grant program for school law enforcement officers to fund safety and security training; includes purchasing bleeding control kits. Governor Bill Lee (R) signed the bill into law March 20, 2023.

WashingtonChapter 365, 2024 Laws

Introduced by Senator Manka Dhingra (D), SB 5790 mandates schools maintain and provide bleeding control equipment on campus; ensure at least two employees per school are trained in STOP THE BLEED®. Governor Jay Inslee (D) signed the bill into law March 29.