



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

April Baskin

Baskin Family Tragedy Serves As Catalyst for Desha's Law

[April Baskin](#)

June 12, 2025

ISSUE:

- [Cardiac Emergency Response Plan](#)
- [Desha's Law](#)
- [American Heart Association](#)

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR APRIL N.M. BASKIN
63RD DISTRICT

Senator Baskin Fights for Desha's Law, Calling for Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) in Public Schools Across the State

June 12, 2025

For Immediate Release:

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ALBANY, NY - Yesterday both the State Senate and the State Assembly passed S.5539A "Desha's Law," a bill requiring public schools across New York State to

provide cardiac arrest training and a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) in order to access Automated External Defibrillators (AED) to be used for students, school personnel, and visitors suffering from sudden heart failure.

Senator Baskin said, “Imagine the joy of watching your daughter playing basketball at her middle school gym, having fun with her teammates. Now, imagine that day turning into a nightmare when disaster strikes. Desha Sanders, my vibrant, 12-year-old cousin, suddenly collapsed on the gym floor. She was in cardiac arrest. While an AED was available in the school, no one could locate the keys to open the unit because no plan was in place.”

“Precious minutes ticked by as Desha’s life hung by a thread. She was rushed to the emergency room, but Desha died. As a mother of two children and Desha's cousin, I want to assure parents, staff, and every student that I'm fighting for you if the unthinkable happens in your school,” Baskin added.

The CERP is a detailed outline on what steps to take in a cardiac emergency in every public school across the state. CERP was borne out of tragedy after Desha lost her life. With the passage of this legislation, lives will undoubtedly be saved.

Senator Baskin thanked Desha’s mother, Anika Florence-Hall, Jasmine Fleming, Alice Florence, the Sanders family and Thomas Hall for allowing Desha's story to be the catalyst of this vital piece of legislation. She also expressed appreciation to her Assembly bill sponsor, Assembly Deputy Majority Leader as well as Chair of The New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages for leading the charge on this bill in the Assembly.

Baskin noted, “Thank you to the American Heart Association for their leadership on crafting and advocating for Desha’s Law, and to my Senate colleagues for their support.”

The bill requires Governor Hochul to sign it into law.

###

related legislation

2025-S5539A

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

[Requires schools safety plans to include a cardiac emergency response plan](#)

February 24, 2025

Senate Floor Calendar

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Do you support this bill?

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Aye

Nay