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WOMEN'S ISSUES

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



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### Senator Baskin's Bills Protect the Health of Children in Our Community

**ALBANY, NY** – State Senator April N.M. Baskin, SD-63, announced today the passage of a pair of bills that positively impact the health of children. Baskin, a freshman Senator, authored **Desha's Law**, which calls for New York State public schools to implement a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP). While AEDs are required in every public school, a plan on how to access the device is an absolute necessity. By outlining the steps needed, such plans could prevent the loss of lives to sudden cardiac arrest.

"When the unthinkable happens and a cardiac event occurs on a school property, every second counts," Sen. Baskin said. "This critical issue hits close to home. My 12-year-old cousin, Desha Sanders, suffered a cardiac event at school and lost her life because there wasn't a plan in place to access the life-saving equipment in the building. With a CERP and AEDs on-site, the outcome can be much different, increasing the individual's chance of survival."

In addition to Desha's Law, Senator Baskin authored a bill allowing children diagnosed with elevated lead levels to be automatically eligible for **early intervention services** in the state. This bill traces back to 2019 when then-County Legislator Baskin introduced a resolution calling on the state to allow for early intervention services for children suffering from lead poisoning. Now, six years later, Senator Baskin answered her own call and authored the bill that garnered bipartisan unanimous support.

Sen. Baskin said, "Black children in Buffalo are 12 times more likely to be diagnosed with lead poisoning than children in predominantly white communities. My own son and brother have experienced this. And, because of Buffalo's older housing stock, the problem is even more acute."

Exposure to lead has severe consequences, resulting in developmental, cognitive, and neurological difficulties for children. Early intervention is crucial to combat lead poisoning while young brains are still resilient, according to health experts.

Senator Baskin is proud to accomplish legislative action that directly benefits her constituents in District 63. She will continue to create and fight for more legislation on issues that positively impact our community.

