



California Chapters  
Northern, Southern, San Diego-Imperial  
American College of Surgeons



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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
OTOLARYNGOLOGY-  
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American Society of  
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American  
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TRAUMA CENTER  
Association of America  
ADVOCACY · FINANCE · OPERATIONS

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support AB 2260

Dear Chairman Wood and Members of the Assembly Health Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge your support for Assembly Bill 2260 – Emergency Response: Trauma Kits.

Individuals with a training in basic first aid can treat minor injuries and provide comfort to the injured. More advance training such as CPR and on the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) provide individuals with the knowledge and techniques to respond when a person has stopped breathing or is having cardiac arrest. Individuals with these types of trainings have come to expect access to medical resources and tools such as first aid kits and AEDs in public places and buildings when they are needed.

The STOP THE BLEED® campaign is the next step in emergency first aid providing people with training and techniques on how to respond when a person is severely injured and is experiencing rapid blood loss. The STOP THE BLEED® training not only teaches participants how to use gauze and tourniquets to stop bleeding but also what to do to prevent the situation from becoming worse.

As with any injury or medical emergency, immediate treatment provides critical time to stabilize or revive the patient while professional emergency services are on their way. In the event of a traumatic bleeding injury, time is even more crucial as it can take a just a few minutes for bleeding to cause death. As shown in national studies, prompt access to trauma kits will greatly increase the survival chance of the injured bleeding person.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Erin G. Andrade, Jane M. Hayes, and Laurie J. Punch, *Stop the bleed: The impact of trauma first aid kits on post-training confidence among community members and medical professionals*, The American Journal of Surgery, Volume 220, Issue 1, December 2019, P245-248, [https://www.americanjournalofsurgery.com/article/S0002-9610\(19\)31542-9/fulltext](https://www.americanjournalofsurgery.com/article/S0002-9610(19)31542-9/fulltext)

<sup>2</sup> Reynold Henry, et al, *Increased Use of Prehospital Tourniquet and Patient Survival: Los Angeles Countywide Study*, Journal of the American College of Surgeons, August 2021, P233-239, [https://journals.lww.com/journalacs/Abstract/2021/08000/Increased\\_Use\\_of\\_Prehospital\\_Tourniquet\\_and.13.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/journalacs/Abstract/2021/08000/Increased_Use_of_Prehospital_Tourniquet_and.13.aspx)

<sup>3</sup> Millicent Okereke, et al, *Educating and Empowering Inner-City High School Students in Bleeding Control*, Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health, Volume 23, Issue 2, February 2022, <https://doi.org/10.5811/westjem.2021.12.52581>

A traumatic bleeding injury can happen at any moment and in any location. California is especially susceptible to emergency disasters, such as earthquakes, that can result in the need to treat numerous people with severe injuries. In these circumstances excellent pre-hospital emergency care for the injured is critical to provide trauma and emergency centers with the necessary time to prepare for and save the injured. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the vulnerability of our emergency centers to handle a sudden large influx of patients while still handling normal caseloads. STOP THE BLEED® training and the use of trauma kits will help to provide precious time for severely injured patients and will save lives.

**Assembly Bill 2260 will make certain that trauma kits are available in California’s buildings and public places when and where they are needed most. The benefits in saving lives by far outweigh the necessary small investment to implement this program.**

We strongly urge you to **support AB 2260**.

Sincerely,

Northern California Chapter, American College of Surgeons  
San Diego Imperial Chapter, American College of Surgeons  
Southern California Chapter, American College of Surgeons  
California Medical Association  
California Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American College of Surgeons  
American Society for Anesthesiologists  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Trauma Society  
American Urological Association  
Trauma Center Association of America