



American
Heart
Association.

March 15, 2024

Senator Baumgardner, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
HB 2494- Proponent

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2494. HB 2494 would require the board of education in each school district to establish a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) for each school, while also providing flexibility and a grant program to assist with associated costs. CERPs should follow nationally approved and recognized guidelines and ensure appropriate location and use of the AEDs, which includes athletic facilities and venues.

CERPs shall establish the following to respond to a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA):

- Creation of a cardiac emergency response team
- Appropriate location and number of automated external defibrillators (AEDs)
- Training of appropriate school personnel in the use of AEDs
- Training of appropriate school personnel in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of sudden death in young athletes and most commonly occurs during or just after physical exertion, while engaged in practice sessions, organized competition, or other sports activities. With only seconds to react and every minute crucial, having an appropriate plan in place during a sudden cardiac emergency can make a difference in survival.

We also know cardiac arrest can happen to other students, school staff, and visitors, that's why American Heart Association (AHA) supports the establishment of CERPs, including AED access, for all school activities, practices, and competitions. CERPs will empower and train school personnel on providing lifesaving care between the time when the victim collapses and emergency medical services arrive. **Each minute following sudden cardiac arrest, survival decreases, however, when treated with defibrillation within 3-5 minutes, survival rates increase 50%-70%.**

To be effective, CERPs need to be coordinated, practiced, and evaluated. Although a school's primary mission is to educate, they have the responsibility to keep our kids safe and be prepared in case of emergencies, such as fires, tornados, and other potential mass-casualty events at school. CERPs extend to provide lifesaving responses during medical crises as well, such as a SCA. The AHA applauds Chair Baumgardner for hearing this important legislation and appreciates the committee's consideration.

Sincerely,

Kari Rinker