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Janet Stanek, Secretary

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**Proponent Testimony on HB 2494
Senate Education Committee
Monday, March 18, 2024
Lainey Faulkner
Director, Bureau of Health Promotion**

Madam Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee,

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) supports HB 2494 and urges you to pass it out of Committee. This legislation offers important standards and funding for Kansas schools to establish cardiac emergency response plans. The ultimate outcome of this bill is to save Kansans' lives.

Cardiac emergency response plans include policies and procedures for responding to cardiac emergencies. These plans support the formation of cardiac emergency response teams, placement of automated external defibrillators, collaborations with local law enforcement and emergency medical services, and readiness of school district personnel to successfully respond to a sudden cardiac emergency on school grounds or at the site of any school-sponsored activity.

KDHE is poised to establish statewide standards for cardiac emergency response plans and to successfully administer the grant program designed to support schools in executing approved plans. KDHE will leverage existing infrastructure to support a simple, streamlined grant application process. A staff member will support schools in successfully crafting cardiac emergency response plans and completing the application process. Those applicant schools in rural areas and with least access to emergency medical services will be prioritized.

While details on the execution of the grant program are still being established, conversations have started on how the program will be successfully implemented and managed at KDHE. As proponents, we support the establishment of cardiac emergency response plans in Kansas schools.

Enacting this legislation is another step the legislature can take to increase the capacity of Kansas schools and communities to respond to sudden cardiac events and reduce deaths from cardiac arrest.