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SENATE

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KELLIE WARREN
11TH DISTRICT

March 18, 2024

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, Ms. Ranking Minority Member, and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to be here in strong support of HB 2494. You may recall that I had the privilege of requesting introduction of the same language for a Senate bill at the joint meeting of the Senate and House Education Committees. I have been updated on the stakeholder negotiations that have resulted in current bill language and satisfied that this is a great compromise that all parties can support.

My involvement with this policy began over a year ago. I learned that a friend and neighbor's high school son suddenly collapsed during baseball practice due to cardiac arrest. It took thirteen minutes of CPR and an AED to save her son. Thankful that her son fully recovered, my friend started an advocacy group to teach CPR to others and has been working diligently to make sure that at our Kansas schools kids and their loved ones, teachers and staff have the best opportunity to survive an unexpected cardiac emergency. She took the next step and talked with me this summer about creating legislation encouraging automatic external defibrillators to be made more widely available to help ensure other kids, their families, teachers, and staff have the same chance to survive cardiac arrest.

Around that same time, I learned there was already an effort being led by House Education Chair Thomas and the American Heart Association, and other constituents on this exact issue. Thank you to those of you supporting and working on this important endeavor. And most importantly thank you very much to those of you who are in the building today to share your personal story of how a sudden cardiac arrest incident at school has impacted your life. We appreciate you being here and sharing your testimony.

To advance the bill, the American Heart Association had numerous meetings held throughout the fall and holiday season with many interested parties, continuing their conversations after the House hearing addressing any concerns that were raised before coming before you today. Thank you to all school stateholders for joining the effort.

I will be happy to stand for questions. However, other conferees may be better equipped to answer specific questions about the bill. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important lifesaving legislation and I look forward to seeing this legislation considered by the full Senate.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kellie C." followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.