

Dear members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share the reason I am an advocate for all graduating high school students to be trained in CPR and to ask that you consider the request to provide funding to ensure that it occurs.

My son Devin Moore died from Sudden Cardiac Arrest five years ago on December 6, 2017. He was a senior in college and only 22 years-old. Devin collapsed while doing something he had done countless times since he was a young boy. He was playing a pick-up game of basketball with a group of his close friends. The day he collapsed he happened to be playing at the fitness center on the campus of the university he attended.

As a grieving parent I am left with many memories and a lot of "what ifs." Photos, trophies, certificates and other keepsakes I hold close to remember the full, but short life he lived. Devin attended Beachwood High School and graduated in 2013. I still have the stuffed animal he made in sewing class and the clay bird he made in art class. I remember how proud he was when he made both of those items and brought them home for me to showcase in our home. I recall him sharing a lot about what he learned in school, but I have no memories of him sharing any experiences in high school learning CPR. No certificate, CPR take-home training kit or mementos to be found related to learning a life-long and life-saving skill.

When my son collapsed, four minutes lapsed before hands-on CPR was initiated. We know that minutes count and immediate CPR is critical to cardiac arrest survival. Starting CPR right away can double or even triple a person's chances of surviving Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The statistics for out of hospital sudden cardiac arrest victims are dismal and we never know for certain that starting CPR will save a person. We do, however, know the end result of doing nothing.

Who would not want to help a friend, a parent, a co-worker or a neighbor experiencing sudden cardiac arrest? We all want to help and need the education, training and tools to make a difference. I cannot change my son's outcome, but I am hopeful that his story and our story of his loss helps promote change. Thank you for considering the bill and the opportunity to ensure high school graduates know CPR and have the skills to intervene if they ever need to help a friend, parent or someone else in need.