

Chair Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani and other members of the House Health Provider Services committee thank you for allowing me to testify today in favor of House Bill 47.

As a firefighter/paramedic, I have responded to numerous calls for sudden cardiac arrests however recently, On Friday January 13th, 2023 while playing hockey I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time with two emergency room physicians; Dr. Venkatesh Kambhampati and Dr. Mike Fellenbaum. The three of us provided chest compressions and a defibrillation from the Automated External Defibrillator or AED at Thornton Park Ice Rink in Shaker Heights, OH which saved the life of fellow hockey player Brandon Miller. Brandon is here today because of early recognition of cardiac arrest and early initiation of chest compressions and subsequent AED usage.

While the 3 of us are trained in advanced cardiac life support, anyone can do what we did that day with having the right tools which includes having an AED in areas where sports are being played. Chest compressions and AED usage is listed by the American Heart Association in the keys of survival. The six links as outlined by the American Heart Association are as followed: Recognition of cardiac arrest and activation of the emergency response system or 911, Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with an emphasis on chest compressions, Rapid defibrillation, Advanced resuscitation by Emergency Medical Services and other healthcare providers, Post-cardiac arrest care, and Recovery (including additional treatment, observation, rehabilitation, and psychological support). As you can see, two of the most important aspects of this chain in survival is CPR and AED usage. Requiring facilities like schools and recreational facilities to have an AED will ensure that if a sudden cardiac arrest event happens, those tools will be in place and be able to be used.

As a Paramedic, I can say without a doubt that House bill 47 is of the utmost importance. It is important to note that data supports early chest compressions by bystanders and early access to an AED increases the chance of survival of someone who suffers an out of hospital sudden cardiac arrest. AEDs can be used by anyone including those who are not trained because the AED clearly explains to anyone who opens it on its proper usage. The same concept applies to anyone to do chest compressions. AEDs have voice prompts that explain to the person using the AED on how to provide adequate chest compressions. This is important because no longer does someone need to do mouth to mouth as science has proven that chest compressions are more important than mouth to mouth breathing.

As a trained medical professional, I can say without a doubt that house bill 47 is truly a lifesaving bill. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Urie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.