



Chair Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, my name is Nicole Ward and I want to thank you for allowing me testify as a proponent of House Bill (HB) 47.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a life threatening emergency that is the leading cause of death among young athletes. SCA can be effectively treated if an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), often combined with CPR, is utilized within 5 minutes of the incident occurring. Unfortunately, Ohio law does not require AEDs to be placed in schools or sports and recreation locations across the state of Ohio.

Having an AED in these locations accompanied with the proper training can serve as the difference between life and death when it comes to Sudden Cardiac Arrest. This is bipartisan, commonsense legislation that is absolutely necessary to protect the health and safety of our children and our communities.

May 2, 2016, my two sons and I have experienced first-hand the unexpected and devastating loss of my late husband and their dad to Sudden Cardiac Arrest, when he collapsed while participating in a spin class at a community fitness center. Although the class was filled with participants and staff and instructors were on site, no bystander administered CPR or used the AED in attempt to save his life. His chance for survival had diminished significantly seeing that it wasn't until the EMS arrive that he received any attempt at providing the critical and time sensitive attention he needed prior to their arrival. Since our loss, my sons and I have started the Make Them Know Your Name heart health foundation which is propelled by individuals and organizations willing to take action to positively impact the heart disease epidemic by providing education, training, resources and confidence to act in emergency situations such as Sudden Cardiac Arrest. We are witnessing too often people dying from a preventable situation, simply because the resources, equipment, and the training necessary are not available or required.

This bill will save lives and I would encourage you all to be a part of that by voting yes on HB 47.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole Ward, Executive Director