

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

As a mother of six children who are all active in school and club sports, I am deeply concerned about the lack of access to life-saving medical equipment like automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in our schools and public recreational facilities. Sudden cardiac arrest is the number one killer of young athletes, and as someone who is deeply involved in youth soccer –as a coach, referee, club administrator, blogger and Soccer Mom –I am well aware of the lack of emergency response preparation and access to AEDs on the vast majority of the fields where we work and play many of which are schools and public recreational facilities.

After doing my own research and learning that CPR and using an AED within 3 minutes of sudden cardiac arrest can increase survival from 0% to 74%, I realized that the only legislation supporting our young athletes, coaches, officials, and parents is Lindsey's Law, which provides valuable sudden cardiac arrest and AED education but does not go far enough to protect our young players.

That's why I am here today to express my support for HB 47, which would require AEDs to be placed in all schools and public recreational facilities in Ohio, and require the state to provide a template emergency action plan. This legislation is essential to preparing for and successfully navigating a sudden cardiac arrest event, and it could save countless lives.

I want to thank Representatives Richard Brown and Adam Bird for their work on and support of this legislation, as well as the 22 co-sponsors for their support in this 135th General Assembly. I also want to thank Lindsey Davis for all of your work bringing Lindsey's Law to fruition and your support of the expansion of that legislation in House Bill 47.

Over the past 18 months, I have become a go-to resource when it comes to sudden cardiac arrest information, setting up first aid and AED training, and sourcing and purchasing AEDs within the Ohio soccer community. Tournaments are sharing their preparedness within our soccer community, and boards and directors are having the conversation not only about sudden cardiac arrest but about player safety and preparedness as a whole.

Unfortunately, I still receive emails week after week of sudden cardiac arrest happening all across Ohio. The good thing is we know AEDs work. Just this year, 2023, an AED saved the life of a student athlete running track in Dayton, an official reffing a basketball game in Columbus, a young man playing pick-up hockey in Cleveland, and a professional football player in Cincinnati. Without an AED, each of these people would have died. AEDs save lives.

As for me, I decided a year ago that I couldn't wait for legislation. Having an AED on every field my kids are on is too important. I went and bought my own AED. I carry it with me to every field that I coach or referee on. I bring it to my kids' games, and I have it inspected monthly.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this bipartisan, commonsense legislation that is absolutely necessary to protect the health and safety of our children and our communities. 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 bill will save lives, and I encourage you all to vote yes on HB 47. Thank you for your consideration.