

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimonial support of House Bill 47 and the urgent need for Ohio legislative action involving the use of AED's.

My name is Larry Herges, athletic director for Taylor High School on the far west side of Cincinnati in Hamilton County. I have served in this capacity for 12 years and 22 total years as an athletic director of (3) school districts in Ohio.

Through the Matthew Mangine Jr. Foundation, our school district (Three Rives Local Schools) has trained over 700 athletes, coaches, teachers and support staff. All sports require a hands-on training refresher training for all coaches at the beginning of each school year. At the beginning of each sports season our student athletes and coaches go through Take 10 Training. Along with my two athletic trainers Betsy Bonifas and Lauren White, we have made it our passion to be ready for a sudden cardiac arrest event. Our motto is this: "It is not a matter of if, but a matter of when" We are prepared, but know other school districts across the state need to implement educational programs that mimic programs similar to ours.

Our district is currently under one roof with over 2000 students. We currently have 12 AED's across our campus in various locations. Our two athletic trainers each carry an AED to bring the number to 14 for our district. We plan to add AED's for our athletic programs who practice or participate off campus.

We have taken our programs, including our emergency action plan to our board of education and have policy approved to provide the proper training to our entire staff and student athletic body. Next school year we will include our band, choir and students involved in school plays to the growing list of students in our district with training.

Since Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field during a Monday Night Football Game, you hear more and more about student athletes of all ages collapsing from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The incidents have always been here however this incident has brought the need for AED's. In my area of the state, an elementary student collapsed during PE. The school nurses provided CPR and saved the child. A young female student collapsed and died at a local elementary school during basketball practice. No one was prepared on how to handle the crises. A local high school student collapsed and died while in class. All necessary measures were used to save his life.

I cannot promise having an AED will save a life. I can promise by having an AED required at athletic contests, provide the proper training and have an action plan in place can increase the chances of survival.

The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that approximately 2,000 people under the age of 25 dies from sudden cardiac arrest in the US every year. It is the leading cause of death in young athletes in the United States, resulting in 1 death in a high school student every 3 days.

In a recent interview on WLWT TV 5 in Cincinnati, reporter Jataria McGee interviewed the OHSAA. When asked if lawmakers should get involved with AED's on school sidelines, the response was "Let us in our field determine what we need." When asked if the OHSAA will require AED's the response was "We won't require those types of things. We will suggest and recommend that you would have ample devices or whatever you want to call it, a plan."

We are past the suggestion of recommendations. We are in the day and age to be required to have AED's and Emergency Action plans in place. Schools, parks and recreational facilities that do not have AED's on site are at risk. I do not have the exact number of schools who do not have an AED or Emergency Action Plans. I do know the number is more than one which to me is an issue and should be a concern to others.

I thank you for allowing me the time to provide testimony today. Please let me know if you have any questions.