

RE: House Bill 47 – Require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools

03/20/2023

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

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a life-threatening emergency that is the leading medical cause of death among young athletes. SCA can be effectively treated if an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), often combined with CPR, is readily available and 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.

As a National leader in the field of sports cardiology, I have seen firsthand the impact an AED can have in saving a life. While many topics are debated regarding screening, there is no debate that AEDs are a vital link in the chain of survival of SCA and save lives. These life-saving devices are not just about young athletes, as schools are often center pieces of community gathering for persons of all ages who would also derive the same potential life-saving utilization of an AED.

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,



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