

Chair Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, my name is Keith Metcalfe 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.

As a person who witnessed someone experiencing cardiac arrest twice, I can attest that the word “sudden” could not be truer. My wife experienced cardiac arrest twice. Both times we were able to begin CPR quickly while waiting for EMS to arrive and administer several shocks which re-started her heart. The sooner a person can receive shocks from an AED the better chance they have for survival. H.B. 47 will help people of all ages should a cardiac arrest episode happen at school or a sporting events.

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,

Keith Metcalfe