

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

My father passed away at the young age of 46 while he was participating in a workout class in a gym. Although the gym had an AED, nobody was confident to use it and my father did not receive proper care until EMS arrived, and passed away. My family and I have started the Make Them Know Your Name heart health foundation and work tremendously hard at providing AED's in to the community and training people on AED's and CPR to ensure no family has to go through what mine did.

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,

PJ Ward