



OHIO
CHAPTER

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Written Testimony
House Health Provider Services Committee
In Support of H.B. 47, Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Schools

Tuesday, March 21st, 2023

Dear Chairman Cutrona and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (OH-ACC), I am writing to emphasize our support for H.B. 47. Reducing the burden of heart disease, and specifically sudden cardiac death, has long been a priority of our state chapter. Towards this end, requiring our schools to have AEDs on site will significantly impact the lives of not just students, but also parents, teachers, and staff. Extensive research has shown that immediate access to AEDs can clearly improve the burden of heart disease in our communities. The concern with AED placement legislation has never been about the location of the devices, but rather the cost, maintenance and training that is required.

It is encouraging that this legislation would require the Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs by public and chartered nonpublic schools, youth sports organizations, and municipal sports and recreation locations. This is crucial as AED trained professionals are most effective when clear and concise cardiac emergency response plans (CERPs) are in place. A CERP is a document that provides instructions for sudden cardiac arrests (SCA) in schools.

Best practices demand that CERPs follow resuscitation science and include input from stakeholders, namely, EMS personnel, school nurses, and health officials. They should be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with federal, state, and local laws, and established safety practices.

Another provision of the bill that we support is the requirement that schools and youth sports organizations hold informational meetings regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students and athletes before the start of each athletic season. This would complement Lindsay's Law, which Ohio passed in 2017 to mandate awareness education in schools related to sudden cardiac arrest. Awareness of the signs of sudden cardiac arrest and the implementation of cardiac emergency response plans could make a significant impact on whether someone survives one of these incidents.

The Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology thanks you for your consideration of H.B. 47, and I would be more than happy to provide additional verbal or written input or other perspective on the role of AEDs for prevention of sudden cardiac events.

Thank you,

Kanny S. Grewal, MD, FACC
President, Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology