

Chair Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, I am Stephanie Kornet, President/Co-Founder of the 4Alec Foundation and I want to thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony as a proponent for House Bill (HB) 47.

My son Alec, passed away at age 17, on February 14, 2017, from an undetected heart condition, which caused him to go into sudden cardiac arrest at hockey practice. Alec was what we thought, a healthy, 3 season high school athlete. He played varsity soccer, hockey and baseball for his high school. He went yearly for his well check appointments and was always cleared to participate in all the sports he played. He never ever had any symptoms of a heart issue. February 14, 2017 started like any other ordinary day. Alec and his younger brother, Michael, went to school. I picked them up after school and all was well. Alec and his brother had hockey practice that evening as they were getting ready for the district playoffs, on February 18<sup>th</sup>. While at practice that evening, Alec told Michael, who was the goalie, that he felt light-headed. Michael told him to go to the bench and get some water. This was so unusual for Alec. He then crawled off the ice and sat on the bench. Another unusual thing for him to do. The coach came over to check on him and Alec said he was okay. One of his teammates was also on the bench at that time. The coach turned around to check on practice and Alec collapsed. He went into sudden cardiac arrest. His teammate yelled that Alec passed out. One coach called 911. The other yelled for my husband, Scott, that was there and they started CPR. My husband and the coach were doing CPR while someone ran to get the AED. By the time they got the AED the paramedics had already arrived. The fire department was literally 1.5 minutes away.

Shortly after Alec died, we decided that we wanted to start a foundation to bring awareness, prevention and education to heart conditions/diseases that can lead to Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in youth, teens, and young adults. Over the past 6 years we have done preventative heart screenings in our community, spoken at various schools at their sports meetings with parents and student athletes. We have also donated AEDs to schools and community baseball leagues. We teamed up with another foundation and provided CPR and AED training to some athletes at the Ginn Academy. We have shared our story with the local news channels and some of the professional sports teams in Cleveland. HB 47 is very important to our mission and very personal or for lack of better words, close to our hearts.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is **the sudden loss of all heart activity due to an irregular heart rhythm**. When this occurs, the heart stops beating and blood stops flowing from the heart to the brain and other vital organs, causing loss of consciousness or seizure-like activity in seconds. 1 in 10 survive a cardiac arrest. Most SCAs occur out of the hospital or medical facility. We know that every second counts when someone is in cardiac arrest. SCA is the #1 killer of student athletes and #1 medical cause of death on student campuses. 1 in 300 youth are walking around with an undetected heart condition that could lead to SCA. Immediate bystander CPR and AED use increases the survival rate from 1 in 10 to 5 in 10.

Many of us were watching the Bangles vs Bills game when Demar Hamlin collapsed from SCA. Imagine how all of us who had a child die from SCA were traumatized. He was in the right place at the right time, with trained medical personnel, athletic trainers and an AED readily available, however, most people who have a cardiac event are not that lucky. His situation brought AED use and SCA to the forefront, which raised many questions why aren't AEDs mandated to be in all schools and in community sports and recreation locations in Ohio? It has been proven that CPR and AEDs save lives so why aren't the students and student athletes in the state of Ohio given the same opportunity for survival? If students are required to be taught the life-saving skill of CPR and AED use to graduate in Ohio, why are they not

accessible to them in school or on the playing fields? If schools do not have AEDs because of a funding issue, there are plenty of resources to receive funds from to purchase them. Money should never be an excuse to not have a life-saving device.

Having AEDs placed in these locations will save lives. That is why HB 47 is such a necessary and important bill. Our schools and communities should be “heart ready, heart safe”. I would encourage you all to be a part of saving lives by voting yes on HB 47.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stephanie Kornet