

Good morning! Thank you for the opportunity to discuss why I support funding for CPR/AED use in schools.

My name is Stephanie Kornet and I am the President/Cc-founder of the 4Alec Foundation. 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 always was cleared medically to play. 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 his Michael, who was the goalie, that he felt light-headed. Michael told him to go to the bench and get some water. This was 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 cardiac arrest. His teammate yelled that Alec passed out. One coach called 911. The other yelled for my husband and started CPR. My husband and the coach were doing CPR while someone ran to get the AED. The paramedics had already arrived by that time.

As we have learned 1 in 10 survive a cardiac arrest. Most SCA's 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 cause of death on student campuses. We know that it is a r/equirement for students in Ohio to be trained in CPR and AED use to graduate from high school. Ironically, about a year after he died, I found his CPR/AED card that he completely it. We have been told that 600 or so schools are teaching it but we want to ensure that they ALL do it. By teaching students CPR and AED use they are armed with a life saving skill that they might have to use on a family member, stranger, or even a classmate. Immediate bystander CPR and AED use increases the survival rate from 1 in 10 to 5 in 10.

We believe this funding that the AHA could give to schools for training could save so many lives. This funding could also help schools in more rural parts of the state educate students where they might not have access to an AED so hands only CPR would have to be used.

This is obviously a very personal issue for my family and I. We do not blame anyone for Alec's death, however if maybe they were trained better in the signs of sudden cardiac arrest and immediately started CPR instead of waiting a minute or 2, he would be here today.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to share my story. Thank you for considering the request of funds for the AHA to allocate to schools so life saving skills can be taught.