

# Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

## American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Steve Huffman, MD  
Chairman, Senate Health Committee  
Ohio Senate  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 47, sponsored by State Representatives Adam Bird and Richard Brown. This legislation would help to protect Ohio children who experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

HB 47 would require school buildings to have an automatic external defibrillator (AED) on premise; current law permits this and many schools have already placed AEDs on site. HB 47 would close gaps that may exist, ensuring our youth athletes are protected against SCA across the state. The bill also requires these entities to offer education to athletes on SCA. We feel this is a great way to education children and their families.

Over the past decade, Ohio has passed several bills aimed at improving healthcare and responding to potential health emergencies in schools. These include laws to address youth sports concussions, allow for epi-pens and albuterol inhalers to be stocked in schools, and improve access to behavioral health services. Ohio has also taken some important steps in addressing SCA by permitting schools to have AEDs on site and creating a protocol for students who are showing signs of SCA. HB 47 continues this important trend aimed at protecting children in school and during athletic competition.

In closing, it is my hope that you will pass HB 47 and take this important step to keep our children safe. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

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#### Ohio Chapter

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