

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As the Heart Attack Coordinator and Cardiovascular Data Analyst at Fairfield Medical Center and a cardiac nurse for over twenty years, I am writing to strongly support HB 47 to require AEDs and training in schools and athletic venues. Over the years, we have seen extraordinary improvements in both EMS resuscitation techniques and hospital care for cardiac arrest. Sadly, however, the number of patients who survive with good neurological outcomes remains essentially the same. This is because the first link in the chain of survival has not changed – namely, the best chance of survival with a good outcome is if bystanders start chest compressions and use an AED in the critical minutes following a collapse. Requiring AEDs and emergency response training in schools and athletic venues will go a long way in empowering the community to jump in and provide care while waiting for EMS to arrive. Not only will it help to save lives in school and athletic facilities, but the skills learned can be applied in all settings where someone might witness a cardiac arrest.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation to save lives in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Deserea Belcher, RN
STEMI Coordinator and Cardiovascular Data Analyst