

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

What an honor it is to be asked to be here today to speak on such a impactful decision for our future generations to come. Being the mother of a sudden cardiac arrest survivor, I am so very passionate about this new bill, in hopes that my testimony will help further promote a positive response to this legislation.

You see almost a year ago today, on my birthday of all days, my healthy happy 12 year old son Connor (with no cardiac history) was dropped off at basketball practice at the Chieftain Center (which is an indoor sports center for our youth). He was actually dropped off at the wrong place by mistake, so when he inevitably did not see his teammates he decided to take off running around the indoor track while he awaited for the others to arrive. He slowed down to a brisk walk, then suddenly grabbed his chest as he instantaneously collapsed.

Fortunately, for us a man and his wife were walking around the track and saw him collapse. The man stayed with my son and rubbed his sternum while his wife ran to call 911. Two mothers saw this and ran to my son's rescue. These bystanders were quick to start CPR that continued until EMS arrived. When EMS arrived he was blue, unconscious and in V-Fib. An AED was placed on his chest where two shocks were delivered. Once a pulse was detected EMS rushed Connor to the hospital.

Only 18 minutes after my son was dropped off did I receive a call informing me that my son had a seizure, collapsed and was being taken to the hospital. Although he suffered from a sudden cardiac arrest, many that did not know what that looked like, perceived it to be a seizure. It was only determined later after emergency personnel had arrived that it was indeed a sudden cardiac arrest. There was an AED present in the Chieftain Center but it was unknown to others until after the event had already occurred. Moreover, the center's personnel was not trained on the usage of the AED at that time.

The school that my son was supposed to be at that night did not have an AED readily available, nor were there other people present besides the coach and the additional basketball players, which were middle school boys that had not been CPR and/or AED trained. The coach had stated later, that he had been trained in the past for work but felt that he would not have been able to step in the way those bystanders did that day. So luckily for us, Connor was actually in the right place at the right time.

This tragedy opened the eyes to so many in our community including coaches, parents, teachers, other students and even myself; as we were all greatly impacted by what Connor had endured. Since then, our small town EMS has graciously visited our schools and held community sessions where many have been educated on CPR, AED and First Aid training courses. As well as our schools have now been equipped with AED's in addition to the training that was provided. Our family was even fortunate to partake in one of these sessions in which we were all certified in CPR, AED and first AID training. In addition we were taught why a sudden cardiac arrest resembles a seizure and how these bystanders quick response not only saved my son's life but prevented him from going brain dead.

It is by God's grace that my child was saved that night and I thank my lucky stars every day that Connor is here with me today, but others have not been so lucky. By requiring educators, coaches, students etc. to partake in these training courses (as many of our community members now have) in addition, to requiring public places such as schools, parks, public pools and other recreational facilities to carry AED's

with trained personnel, I feel that you will not only have more positive outcomes such as Connor's, but you will be saving the lives of so many, including but not limited to our innocent youth.

In conclusion, I thank you for the time you have given me today to speak my testimony. My only hope in doing so, is to give other families the chance to save their loved ones as our small town hero's did for us that day. You never think that this could happen to you (I know I sure didn't) but it can and who knows next it could be your child, brother, sister, niece, nephew or friend who is saved. All because of this positive decision you made today for their future.

Thank you  
Shannon C. Davis