

*Good morning Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 47.* In June of 2021, I was the first citizen to approach Representative Brown regarding legislation that would eventually become House Bill 47.

I have 6 children (5 boys and 1 girl). In addition to managing the busy schedules of 4 soccer players, an 8 year old who loves tennis and a musician. I work at the Arts & College Prep Academy and run my own business, Soccer Moms and Dads – a web based business where I support Ohio's Soccer community by providing soccer parents with resources to help them navigate Ohio's soccer landscape. Initially, my reason for pushing this issue was not personal - I just felt that the current legislation in place (Lindsey's Law) was not sufficient in protecting young athletes.

My perspective, my reason and my passion all shifted on Monday May 29th of this year. After two years of working with Representative Brown, researching Sudden Cardiac Arrest and becoming a part of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness and Advocacy Community – I was sitting on my back porch drinking coffee with my husband, while my children slowly woke up from the long weekend. My 11 year old (Joshua) had just played in a Memorial Day weekend tournament, and the kids were slowly making their way out of bed and onto the porch. We were laughing and catching up after a weekend of kids running in all different directions when Joshy stood up and then flopped back down, his eyes were rolled back and he was non-responsive for about a minute. In the emergency room it was determined that he suffered from syncope (basically he had fainted) they did an EKG which showed potential left ventricular hypertrophy, a condition that would raise his risk for Sudden Cardiac Arrest. After an additional EKG a week later, showing the same results we were sent to a cardiologist. He has since been cleared and he is back to being a typical 11 year old, however what started as a mission to make Ohio safer for all students and young athletes has turned into something much more personal.

Even before Joshy's episode I was carrying an AED with me to all sporting events - now, we manage our activities based on where we know an AED is available. We scope out every place we frequent and talk through, where is the closest AED and can we get to it in 90 seconds?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a life threatening emergency that is the leading cause of death among young athletes. SCA can be effectively treated if an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), often combined with CPR, is utilized within 5 minutes of the incident occurring. Unfortunately, Ohio law does not require AEDs to be placed in schools or sports and recreation locations across the state of Ohio.

Having an AED in these places will not only save lives but it is what people want. In my work with Ohio Soccer Moms and Dads, I often write about this topic and the feedback I get is overwhelmingly in support of requiring more AEDs, CPR training and developing Emergency Action Plans. Parents and soccer leaders are constantly asking me how they can get an AED, how they can learn CPR and how to create an emergency action plan.

This is bipartisan, commonsense legislation that is absolutely necessary to protect the health and safety of our children and our communities. This bill will save lives and I would encourage you all to be a part of that by voting yes on HB47. Let's do it before the year ends, it makes sense - it will save lives, people want it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Dunaway