

# ACS Chapters | Ohio



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

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

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

On behalf of the Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, Ohio Chapter, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 47, sponsored by State Representatives Adam Bird and Richard Brown. This is common-sense, life-saving legislation and we commend the bill sponsors and cosponsors for bringing this measure forward.

As you know, HB 47 would require all schools to place automatic external defibrillators (AED's) on site. Further, the bill requires these entities to offer training to athletes on the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the start of each season. This is a necessary addition to current Ohio law, which allows school districts to have AED's and sets protocols for students who exhibit signs of cardiac arrest to be removed from play or competition and evaluated by a healthcare professional.

Instances of sudden cardiac arrest are not new, however public awareness of this lethal medical event has been increased in recent years due to high profile tragedies, most recently involving Buffalo Bills Safety Damar Hamlin. Thanks to the quick actions of medical staff and the availability of an AED onsite, Damar survived this episode. There are many examples of AED's being used to save lives, but there are also too many stories of athletes collapsing and an AED not being available. Passage of HB 47 will increase the odds that a youth athlete suffering from sudden cardiac arrest will receive life-saving care.

Ohio's surgeons are committed to caring for and protecting our patients. HB 47 is a meaningful piece of legislation, and we urge the committee to quickly pass the measure. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alisha Reiss, MD, FACS  
President  
Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons

Elizabeth Shaughnessy, MD, FACS  
Advocacy Chair  
Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons