

Chairman Huffman, Vice
Chairman Johnson, Ranking
Member Antonio, and Members
of the Senate Health Committee

On July 7 this year, my son Canen suffered Sudden Cardiac Arrest and collapsed on the High School track during soccer conditioning. His soccer coaches immediately started CPR while the other ran into the building to get the AED machine. It was a Summer practice which meant the doors were locked. Luckily the coach had the key and was able to retrieve it. When I arrived on the scene, the paramedics had arrived and were working on him. I looked into my son's eyes and they were vacant...he wasn't there. He had a pulse again and they took him quickly to the nearest Hospital where he was sedated and a ventilator was put in. It was a long horrific night. The Doctors were very concerned about brain damage not to mention heart damage. He was awake but could not focus his eyes or squeeze our hands. It wasn't until the next morning that he came back to us. We almost lost him, as a matter of fact, he asked the Cardiologist if he had died and she said yes. He went on to spend 10 days in the ICU and went through many tests, only to find there was no specific diagnosis. He is now on 2 medications to control his heart rate and rhythm. He recently had surgery to implant a subcutaneous ICD in case it would happen again.

We were told over and over again by the team of Doctors that without the life saving efforts of his 2 coaches during that crucial first few minutes he would not be here. This is all to say that we are in support of Bill 47, and we know first hand how important it is to have AEDs in schools along with the training of how to use them and how to perform CPR. We are happy to say that Canen's high school, Worthington Kilbourne, has since ordered and placed a second AED out by the track. The school recently built a second field further back behind the building and because of a program that Zoll (the company of the AED used for Canen) is running in that if you share your story they allow you to donate an AED to the school or building of your choice. We are donating and placing this AED on that back field. Every minute counts so the more accessible they are the better! We have heard stories of communities coming together in different ways to provide funding for AEDs, after hearing our story, and others. In fact, Canen's soccer team ran a fundraiser to raise funds for Cardiac Arrest Awareness during a playoff game against the other high school in Worthington. The American Heart Association came along with mannequins and AED machines and showed people how to use them properly. We do feel that Community support can be a very good resource for funding AEDs in schools. We are eternally grateful to Canen's coaches and everyone involved in saving his life and want to do all we can to help save others. We feel this Bill gets us one step closer to doing just that. Please consider passing this Bill, you would literally be saving lives.

Sincerely,

Pamela Dickman