



December 5, 2023

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

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

In 2015, while on a Southwest flight from Ft. Myers's Florida to the Akron-Canton airport a 39-year-old gentleman "died". My husband and I, with the assistance of the amazing flight crew, brought him back to life utilizing the onboard AED device. Two weeks later, after two subsequent cardiac arrests at Aultman Hospital in Canton, and implantation of a defibrillator, he attended his daughter's first communion. He remains at work in Cleveland as a high school teacher and multi-sport coach. His large, loving family remains so thankful that we were able to shock him back to life on that flight. That incident was the first time I had used an AED outside of a health care setting and has prompted my inspection of every facility I enter for the location of their AED. HB 47 would provide support for AEDs to be located in one of our most sacred spaces-our schools. There are few other expenditures that provide the return on investment of AEDs, as being the critical piece of equipment when a young athlete, or teacher, suffers a cardiac arrest. Since Damar Hamlin was successfully resuscitated utilizing an AED, Ohioans have become acutely aware of the utility of AEDs. With placement of AEDs in schools, and the training to use them, Ohioans will be empowered!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Gantt MD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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