

To: Members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee

Fr: Joe Rosato, Director, Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: December 6, 2023

Re: HB 47

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, I write today in support of House Bill 47, which would require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools – specifically each public and chartered nonpublic school, and in each public recreational facility/sports and recreation location. This is a comprehensive proposal with a multifaceted approach to reducing negative outcomes of sudden cardiac arrest in these facilities.

Our members understand and emphasize the devastating effects of heart disease and sudden cardiac death on our communities. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is our nation's leading cause of death. HB 47 represents an opportunity to have meaningful impact toward improving the likelihood of survival for individuals with SCA. It has been proven time and time again that immediate and urgent access to AEDs can help save lives, and while many Ohio schools likely already have AEDs on site, it is important that we help to close any gaps that might persist and ensure all our athletes and others present in these facilities are protected.

This legislation also requires the Ohio Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs, which sports and recreation locations and schools would use as a model plan to develop and adopt their own emergency action plans. The model emergency action plan would require that the plan be practiced at least quarterly, and HB 47 also requires the board of education of each school district to provide training in AED use to teachers, principals, administrative employees, coaches, and athletic trainers. These provisions are crucial to ensuring that coaches, teachers, and other staff working with youth athletes are equipped to respond if emergencies occur.

In addition, passage of HB 47 would complement Lindsay's Law, which was passed in Ohio in 2017, and mandates awareness education in schools related to sudden cardiac arrest. HB 47 includes provisions requiring schools and youth athletic programs to hold informational meetings about the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students and athletes.

OSMA appreciates the opportunity to provide our remarks about this legislation and encourages support for HB 47 to provide life-saving care and protection to our patients statewide. Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out to us should you have any questions.