

My name is Brian Christman. My Son was student-athlete Ben Christman. Ben was a proud Son of Ohio & graduate of Revere High School tragically lost too soon. I am here today in support of Ohio House Bill 437 & an advocate for it becoming Ohio law.

I want to thank & complement its sponsors Representative Jean Schmidt & Representative Tristan Rader. I'd also like to thank our area Representative Bill Roemer & Revere Alumni Mike Kahoe for helping amplify our message regarding Ben's life & the need for cardiac screening.

I'd also like to thank our school Revere for trying to be leaders in this area. They not only equipped schools, athletic fields & trainers with AEDs, conducted hands-on AED & CPR training for teachers, coaches & staff while providing an at-risk student with a portable AED. They also just offered & completed full cardiac screening for student athletes this past weekend.

Our Son Ben Christman was an amazing young man. An All-American on the field known for his larger-than-life presence, it of course earned him the affectionate nickname "Big Ben". Ben loved his family, friends, classmates, teammates, community & football. As powerful & dominant as he was on the field, he was just as kind & caring off it. A true gentle giant, always making time for others, especially his younger brothers, Thomas, and Brooks.

His love of sports, particularly football, fueled his dreams of playing at the highest level which he achieved by wearing the Buckeyes Scarlett & Grey and the Blue & White of Kentucky. Despite accomplishing so much on the field, he always remained grounded & humble. A fixture at youth camps or practices when he had time, he could often be found roaming the halls of Revere High School visiting with old teachers or coaches.

He embraced the idea of being a student-athlete, eventually earning All-Big Ten & SEC Scholar-Athlete status. His enthusiasm for life was infectious, and his loyalty to those who cared about him knew no bounds. He even had the word loyalty tattooed on his massive forearm; it meant that much to him. Sadly, when he passed, it was one of the things we had to use to confirm it was him. It's devastating losing a child. Seeing the joy he brought the world leave; is terrible.

As a father who lost a Son, not only do you think of them every day, but also you go over in your mind nearly every detail of their lives trying to understand if there was anything I could've done differently. What could I have done differently to prevent that moment and the unbelievable pain his Mother & Brothers are going through.

What did I miss? What did we miss? What did the doctors who performed those physicals through the years miss? After Ben passed, we did what any parent would do by checking his brothers right away. We're fortunate to have resources enabling us to run every cardiac

test imaginable to ensure they are okay. As I watch & go through these tests with them, a thought keeps coming back to me: cardiac screening. Ben had such boundless energy, remarkable level of fitness, & no signs of anything let alone cardiac issues. This is why the screening is so important. There are still many parents which don't either know this is an issue or because of the perceived incredible health of their kids, don't think to check for it. This law will not only continue to help with more awareness but will save lives & provide a resource for those that may not have the means we do.

Proper cardiac screening to help uncover issues will hopefully reduce the need for ever having to use life-saving AEDs or CPR. The focus on screening & early detection is a critical factor in saving lives which has been overlooked. The number one cause of death for student-athletes is sudden cardiac arrest, but we don't screen for it. Often its cause is an underlying cardiovascular issue which could be detected. We are grateful for prior laws which have helped in the education & prevention of sudden cardiac deaths. They were all important & helped lead us to this point, which is cardiac screening of student-athletes to provide early detection & intervention to prevent sudden cardiac arrest & death.

These screenings will inevitably detect issues in student athletes. It may be significant enough to sideline them from the sport they love & played their whole life. It will be a difficult call to make & receive, but not nearly as difficult as the call I received. I want to help make sure no parent has to receive that call. I'd rather see a student athlete walk away & live a great life than have the joy of victories & cheers turn into the tributes & tears of family & friends.

I'd like to thank the committee & Chairwomen again for having me here today. I hope my testimony; advocacy, & Ben's life will help move this forward. Let's all follow "Big Ben" one more time down the field, as that loveable lineman helps clear a path to victory for his Team, this Team here today, like he did so many times before. Let's follow Big #70 one more time down the field to help push this bill across the goal-line. Thank you.