

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm Dr. Justin Benoit, and I'm before you today as Chairman of the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES).

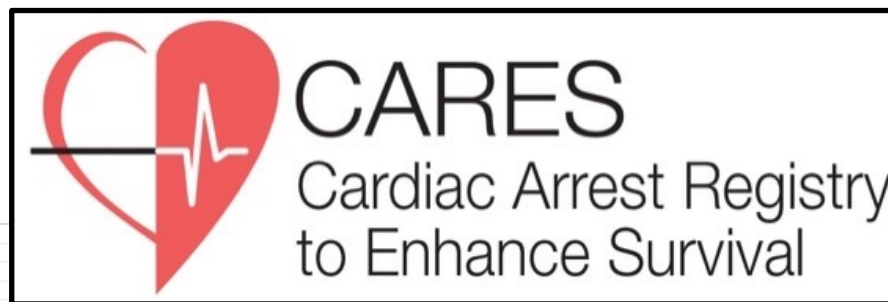
**What is cardiac arrest?** Imagine witnessing a family member unexpectedly collapse to the ground. It's not a heart attack, which causes chest pain due to poor blood flow a portion of the heart itself. It's much worse. In cardiac arrest, their heart isn't pumping at all! Blood flow to their entire body has stopped. They are unconscious, not breathing, and will die in 10 minutes if you do nothing. Cardiac arrest is the quintessential medical emergency, and it is not a rare event. It happens 30 times a day in Ohio. That's 10,000 Ohioans annually, and only 10% survive. It happens to both kids and adults; the sick and the healthy. It could happen to literally anyone in this room, today.

**How do you treat cardiac arrest?** Thankfully, there's an answer: CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). You push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees. You become that person's beating heart. CPR works so well that it can triple the chance of survival. But we must start doing CPR immediately. There isn't time to wait for the life squad or the police. This is especially true in rural areas of Ohio, where EMS response times average over 12 minutes, and can exceed 20 minutes. Regular Ohioans (bystanders) need to do CPR. While AEDs (automated external defibrillators) are also critically important, they are useful in only 1 out of 5 cardiac arrests. CPR, on the other hand, is always the right answer. When it comes to CPR, every minute counts. Unfortunately, Ohio is 3rd worst in the United States at performing CPR! We only perform bystander CPR 33% of the time. That's below the national average of 41%, and well below the best states at 75%.

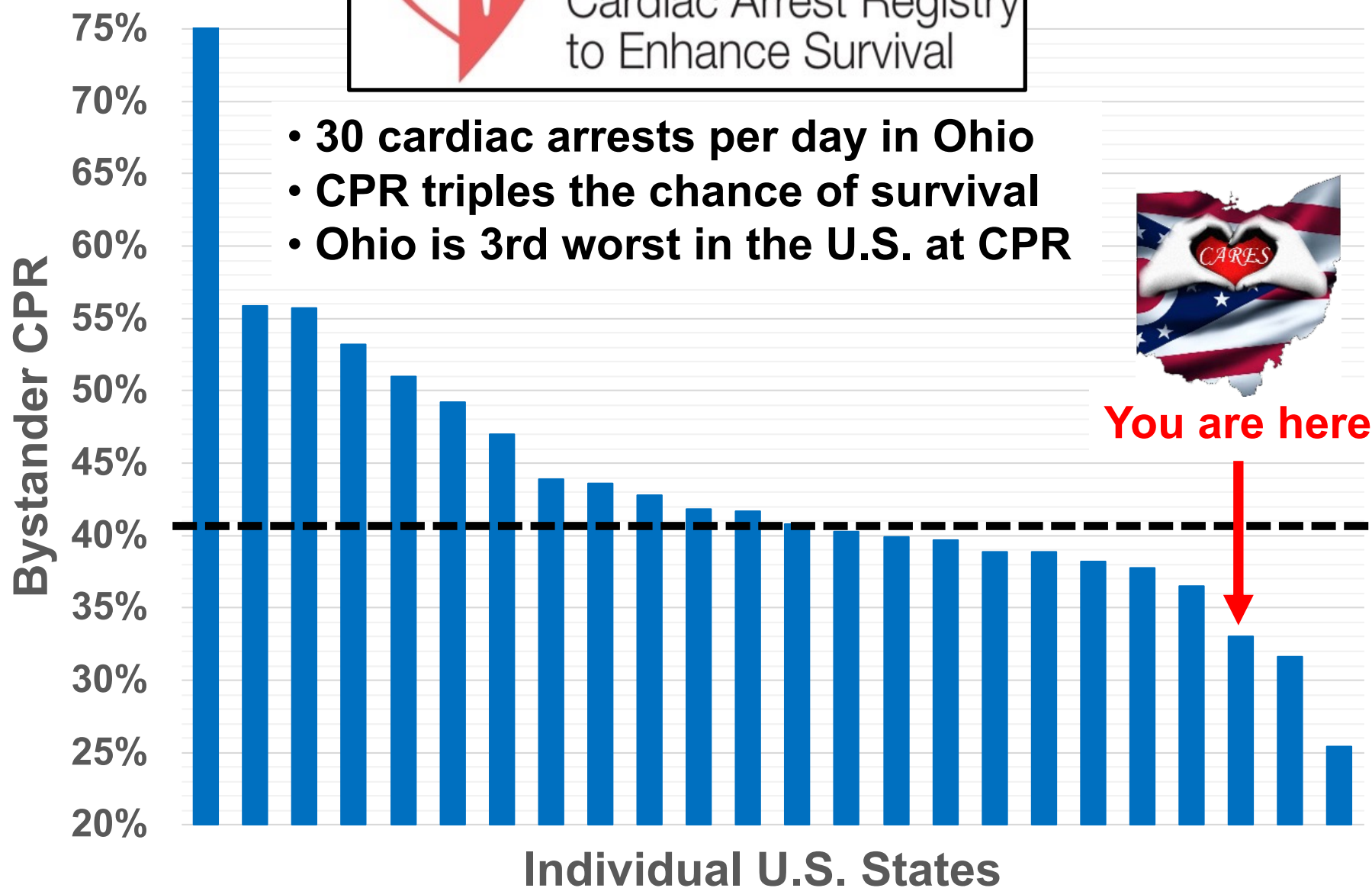
**How do we know all this?** Ohio CARES. Ohio CARES is the only organization in Ohio that collects and analyzes the entire "chain of survival" for cardiac arrest: actions by the public, 9-1-1 call centers, first responders, police, EMS agencies, and hospitals. That's how we learn what works and what doesn't. We then confidentially feed this information back, to teach organizations how to improve based on their specific needs. Ohio CARES was spearheaded in 2016 by volunteer physicians, paramedics, police officers, and community members from across Ohio, and we have worked closely with the Ohio Department of Public Safety since that time.

**Why should the State of Ohio fund Ohio CARES?** Cardiac arrest kills over two dozen Ohioans, unexpectedly and unnecessarily, every day in our communities, and there isn't time to get to a hospital. That is a public safety issue. Rural communities in Ohio, in particular, have neither the tax base nor the personnel to solve this problem on their own. Rural communities need help from the State of Ohio; they need Ohio CARES. Although there are many hardworking paramedics, police officers, community members, and physicians like me who volunteer their time trying to solve this problem, the CPR numbers clearly show it's not enough. This statewide problem needs a statewide solution. However, Ohio CARES currently receives only \$25,000 per year from the State of Ohio. Without additional funding, Ohio CARES will cease to exist after 2025, and the unique contribution we make to public safety will be lost forever.

**As Chairman of Ohio CARES, I am asking you to support amendment number HC0257 to House Bill 96.** This amendment will appropriate funds to the Ohio Department of Public Safety for Ohio CARES. These funds will enable Ohio CARES to dramatically increase efforts to improve bystander CPR throughout rural communities in Ohio. This goal of Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign. We have the full support of Director Andy Wilson of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Director Wagoner of Ohio EMS, the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association, the American Heart Association, and numerous public safety and EMS agencies in Ohio, as shown in our letters of support. This truly is a matter of life and death for Ohioans. Please support funding for Ohio CARES. Thank you.



[www.ohcares.net](http://www.ohcares.net)





The Ohio EMS Chiefs Association

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

November 22, 2024

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of Ohio EMS Chiefs Association, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

Ohio CARES is part of a nationwide effort to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. Ohio CARES tracks key performance and outcome metrics for cardiac arrest across the state, and then uses that information for quality improvement and benchmarking efforts. This ultimately improves the care of cardiac arrest patients and improves survival. Ohio CARES provides valuable insights across the entire chain of survival, including emergency dispatch, community bystanders, police and first responders, EMS agencies, and hospitals.

Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

Sincerely,

Eric Burns, AAS, Paramedic  
President of Ohio EMS Chiefs Association  
Chief of EMS Tri-Village Joint Ambulance District



## National Association of EMS Physicians®

4400 College Boulevard, Suite 220, Overland Park, KS 66211

Phone: (913) 222-8654, Toll Free: 800-228-3677, Fax: (913) 222-8606  
info-NAEMSP@NAEMSP.org • www.NAEMSP.org

### Ohio Chapter

Paul Zeeb MD  
President

Jeremiah  
Escajeda, MD  
Vice President

Amy Raubenolt, MD  
Secretary-Treasurer

Thomas Collins MD  
Past President

Andy Wilson, Director  
Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

October 10, 2024

Dear Director Wilson:

On behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Sincerely,

Paul Zeeb, MD, FACEP, FAEMS  
President  
Ohio Chapter

## **Support of the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES)**



**W**hereas the National Association of State Emergency Medical Service Officials (NASEMSO) recognizes that cardiac arrest is a significant public health threat to populations and that cardiac arrest data is a critical performance measure to improve survival;

**Whereas** the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine (IOM), in its recent report, *Strategies to Improve Cardiac Arrest Survival: A Time to Act*, recommended that a national cardiac arrest registry be established;

**Whereas** the IOM directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to coordinate this cardiac arrest data collection, and that *CARES*, a virtually unchallenged consensus cardiac arrest registry, was sponsored by the CDC, and that *CARES* currently includes a standard set of data elements for cardiac arrest performance improvement; and

**Whereas** the IOM report called for continuous quality improvement programs which would use data from the cardiac arrest registry to measure and improve prehospital cardiac arrest care.

**N**ow therefore be it resolved that the National Association of State EMS Officials supports the cardiac arrest data set established in CARES as the national standard minimum data set for states to incorporate into their respective cardiac arrest data sets; and

**Be it further resolved** that NASEMSO calls upon electronic patient care report vendors to incorporate the required and mandatory CARES prehospital data elements and export function as part of their basic standard prehospital electronic patient care reporting products to be activated at the choice of each state, and not as extra cost add-ons to basic standard products; and

**Be it further resolved** that NASEMSO calls upon CARES to assure that its dataset complies with the NEMSIS Version 3 standard and subsequent updates.

Submitted by Dr. Peter Taillac, Chair, Medical Directors Council and by  
Lindsey Narloch, Chair, Data Managers Council.

Signed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2016.



Paul Patrick  
2014-2016 President



Kyle Thornton  
2014-2016 Secretary

**Intended Distribution:**

- All vendors on NEMSIS accreditation list
- US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of EMS
- American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)
- National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP)
- Air Medical Physicians Association (AMPA)
- American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM)
- All other members of the Joint National EMS Leadership Forum



October 2, 2024

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

Director Andy Wilson:

The Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) represents over 1,500 emergency physicians across the state. On behalf of Ohio ACEP, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

Ohio CARES is part of a nationwide effort to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. Ohio CARES tracks key performance and outcome metrics for cardiac arrest across the state, and then uses that information for quality improvement and benchmarking efforts. This ultimately improves the care of cardiac arrest patients and improves survival. Ohio CARES provides valuable insights across the entire chain of survival, including emergency dispatch, community bystanders, police and first responders, EMS agencies, and hospitals.

Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

If you have any questions, please contact Ohio ACEP's representative Amanda Sines ([amanda@gov-advantage.com](mailto:amanda@gov-advantage.com)) or Ohio ACEP Executive Director, Holly Dorr ([hdorr@ohacep.org](mailto:hdorr@ohacep.org))

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph Tagliaferro  
President, Ohio ACEP

President  
Joseph Tagliaferro, DO, FACEP

Secretary  
RJ Sontag, MD, FACEP

President-Elect  
Christina Campana, DO, FACEP

Immediate Past President  
B. Bryan Graham, DO, FACEP

Treasurer  
Dan C. Breece, DO, FACEP

Executive Director  
Holly Dorr, MBA, CAE, CMP



November 14, 2024

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of The Columbus Division of Fire, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

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Sincerely,



Robert Lowe, MD, FACEP, FAEMS  
Medical Director

RL:bfs 24-26





# COTS

An affiliate of the Columbus Medical Association

1390 Dublin Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614-240-7419 ph  
614-240-7416 fx

[www.cotshealth.org](http://www.cotshealth.org)

September 30, 2024

#### Board of Trustee Officers

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CHSP, FACHE  
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*Columbus Medical Association and  
Affiliates CEO*

Sherri Kovach, MS, BSN, RN, EMT  
*COTS President*

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of COTS, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

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Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. Ohio CARES aligns with the mission of COTS: to improve the health and safety of the communities we serve. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

Sincerely,

Sherri Kovach

[skovach@cotshealth.org](mailto:skovach@cotshealth.org)



November 14, 2024

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

Director Andy Wilson:

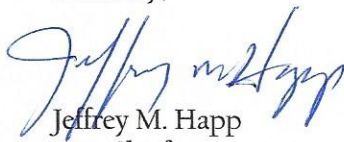
On behalf of The Columbus Division of Fire, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

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Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey M. Happ  
Fire Chief

JMH:bfs 24-25



Cincinnati Fire Department

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

October 16, 2024

Director Andy Wilson:

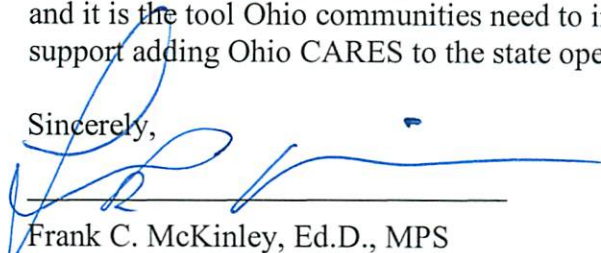
On behalf of the Cincinnati Fire Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

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Sincerely,



Frank C. McKinley, Ed.D., MPS  
Fire Chief

430 Central Ave, Floor 2

Cincinnati, OH 45202

P (513) 352-6242

Email: [frank.mckinley@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:frank.mckinley@cincinnati-oh.gov)



Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

10/8/2024

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of UC Health, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pancioli', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Dr. Arthur Pancioli, MD FACEP  
Chief Clinical Officer  
UC Health  
3200 Burnet Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45229  
513-585-6000





Corporate Office

1077 Gorge Boulevard  
Akron, Ohio 44310  
tel 330-375-3000  
summahealth.org

October 8, 2024

ATTN: Andrew Wilson, Director  
Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Director Wilson:

Summa Health is pleased to provide a letter of support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) initiative. We support state funds being allocated to this organization to improve cardiac care and services for Ohio patients.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to thirty Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

Ohio CARES is part of a nationwide effort to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. Ohio CARES tracks key performance and outcome metrics for cardiac arrest across the state, and then uses this information for quality improvement, benchmarking, and public policy planning. This improves the care of cardiac arrest patients and improves survival rates. Ohio CARES provides valuable insights to emergency dispatch staff, community bystanders, police and first responders, EMS agencies, and hospitals.

We welcome your agency to support a state appropriation to Ohio CARES because it aligns with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign. Ohio communities could utilize Ohio CARES as a tool to improve bystander CPR efforts which is key to saving more Ohioans' lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CLIFF DEVENY".

Cliff Deveny, M.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Colleague,

I nearly died in 2017. While attending the Republican Governor's Association Conference in Austin, Texas, I experienced an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). My heart stopped beating - making me one of over 350,000 Americans who experience an OHCA each year. I am blessed to be one of only 10% of patients who survived to hospital discharge and, amazingly, without any neurological deficit.

Successful resuscitation from OHCA, a critical measure of a community's emergency response readiness, requires a carefully coordinated response by many individuals including bystanders, emergency medical dispatchers, first responders, EMTs and paramedics and hospital providers. I am thankful for the excellent EMS system in Austin/Travis County which saved my life.

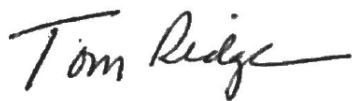
The Austin Community also participates in the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) Program, which allows them to benchmark their cardiac arrest performance with local, state, or national metrics to better identify opportunities to improve their OHCA care. CARES provides comprehensive cardiac arrest data that allows informed decision-making and allocation of limited resources for maximum community benefit. CARES has transformed the way that EMS agencies treat cardiac arrest by using real-time feedback and analysis to increase patient survival. This Registry data collection is critical because it allows communities and public health organizations to monitor care and improve their performance.

CARES, a program based out of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and founded by the Center for Disease Prevention and Control, has been collecting OHCA data since late 2005. The CARES registry covers a population of over 130 million people or 40% of the US population, includes a total of over 350,000 records and approximately 70 participating communities in 19 states, and 23 state based registries, 1,400 EMS agencies and over 1,900 hospitals. CARES has published over 60 articles in peer reviewed journals and has supported countless quality improvement efforts in participating communities, resulting in an increase in cardiac arrest survival and a more thorough understanding of OHCA treatment and survival in the field of emergency medicine.

Considering its positive impact on reducing OHCA deaths, I was amazed to learn that every state does not participate in CARES. My goal is for all states to participate in CARES so more lives can be saved. CARES state participation cost is minimal - a \$15,000 annual subscription fee and support for a CARES state coordinator.

I have asked Dr. Bryan McNally, Executive Director of CARES, to join me in asking you to bring CARES to your state. Enclosed are background materials that explain CARES and state participation in more detail. If you have questions about the program or state participation, please contact the Director of Operations of CARES, Allie Crouch ([ajpark4@emory.edu](mailto:ajpark4@emory.edu)).

Sincerely,



Tom Ridge  
First Secretary, U.S. Department  
of Homeland Security  
43<sup>rd</sup> Governor of Pennsylvania



Bryan McNally, MD, MPH  
Executive Director, CARES





# DELHI TOWNSHIP

## THE FLORAL PARADISE OF OHIO

FIRE

Douglas S. Campbell, Chief

Michael D. Davis, Trustee  
Cheryl A. Sieve, Trustee  
Rose K. Stertz, Trustee

---

James J. Luebbe, Fiscal Officer

---

Skylor R. Miller, Administrator

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

September 30, 2024

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of Delhi Township Fire Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Campbell Jr., EFO



**Hicksville Rescue Squad**

EMS Chief Bruce Silcott  
111 South Main Street  
Hicksville, OH. 43526

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

11/01/2024

Director Andy Wilson:

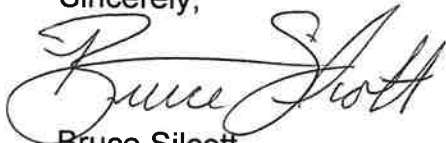
On behalf of Hicksville Volunteer Fire Department/Hicksville Rescue Squad, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Sincerely,



Bruce Silcott

EMS Chief

(O)-419-542-1348

(C)-419-487-1253

hixemsreports@gmail.com



## PIQUA FIRE DEPARTMENT

229 West Water Street • Piqua, Ohio 45356  
Administration (937) 778-2013 • FAX (937) 778-2019

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

November 12, 2024

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of the Piqua Fire Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

Sincerely,

Lee Adams, chief  
Cell 937-418-2762 Email: Ladams@piquaoh.gov





# SENECA COUNTY

## Emergency Medical Services



Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

December 10, 2024

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of Seneca County Emergency Medical Services, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Hafley, Paramedic, BCJ, FESI

**Christopher Hafley**, Emergency Medical Service Director  
126 Hopewell Ave. Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
Office: 419-447-0266 Ext. 6711. Cell Ph. 567-230-2948  
Email: [emsdirector@senecacountyohio.gov](mailto:emsdirector@senecacountyohio.gov)



# West Licking Joint Fire District

851 East Broad Street  
Pataskala, Ohio 43062  
(740) 927-8600  
(740) 964-6621

Andy Wilson, Director  
Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

December 9, 2024

Dear Director Wilson:

On behalf of West Licking Joint Fire District, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Sincerely,

*GINGER WORTMAN*

Ginger Wortman RN, EMT-P  
EMS Coordinator/Community Paramedic



## Woodlawn Fire Department

10121 Springfield Pike  
Woodlawn, Ohio 45215  
Phone: 513-771-0233  
Fax: 513-771-8684

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

09/30/2024

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of Woodlawn Fire Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

Sincerely,

Carter Pittman, BS, NRP, EMSI, CHEP, OFC

*Assistant Fire Chief*

Woodlawn Fire Department

[10121 Springfield Pike](#)

[Woodlawn, Ohio 45215](#)

[\(513\) 771-0233](#) Work

[\(513\) 667-4922](#) Cell

[\(513\) 771-8684](#) Fax

[cpittman@beautifulwoodlawn.us](mailto:cpittman@beautifulwoodlawn.us)

# WYANDOT COUNTY

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

&

## SPECIALIZED RESCUE TEAM

401 N. Warpole St. \* UPPER SANDUSKY \* OH \* 43351

419-294-4916 \* [wyandotems@co.wyandot.oh.us](mailto:wyandotems@co.wyandot.oh.us)



Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43223

October 8, 2024

Director Andy Wilson:

On behalf of Wyandot County EMS, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs to 30 Ohio citizens every day, and it is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. Immediate bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) doubles or triples the chance of survival. Yet only 33% of cardiac arrests in Ohio receive bystander CPR. This CPR rate is below the national average (41%) and well below the highest performing states (75%).

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Ohio CARES aligns perfectly with Governor DeWine's new "Every Minute Counts" campaign, and it is the tool Ohio communities need to improve rates of bystander CPR. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget to save more Ohioans!

Sincerely,

Dale Risley AEMT

Chief, Wyandot County EMS





## ***BETHEL-TATE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

149 North East Street  
Bethel, Ohio 45106  
Phone: (513) 734-4444

Fax: (513) 734-2225

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December 19, 2022

Governor Mike DeWine:

On behalf of the Bethel-Tate Fire Department, I am writing to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

Ohio CARES is part of a large nationwide effort to improve survival from cardiac arrest. The fundamental goal of CARES is to track key performance and outcome metrics for these critically ill patients. This enables quality improvement and benchmarking efforts that improve care and increase survival. CARES provides valuable insight across the entire chain of survival, including emergency dispatch, community bystanders, police and first responders, EMS agencies, and hospitals.

Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,

*Christopher G. Cooper*

Christopher G. Cooper  
Assistant Chief



**City of Blue Ash**  
4343 Cooper Road  
Blue Ash, OH 45242-5699  
ph. 513.745.8500  
fax 513.745.8594  
[BlueAsh.com](http://BlueAsh.com)

**David M. Waltz**  
*City Manager*



**Fire Department**

**North Station**  
10647 Kenwood Road  
Blue Ash, OH 45242  
ph. 513.745.8533  
fax 513.794.3496

**South Station**  
4343 Cooper Road  
Blue Ash, OH 45242  
ph. 513.745.8532  
fax 513.745.8597

**CHRIS THEDERS**  
*Fire Chief*

2/4/23

**Governor Mike DeWine:**

On behalf of The City of Blue Ash Fire Department, I am writing to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,

**Patrick Pyles**  
Lieutenant  
City of Blue Ash Fire Department  
513-917-4879 Cell  
513-745-8533 Office  
[ppyles@blueash.com](mailto:ppyles@blueash.com)

## Fire Department

**DONALD G. BENNETT**  
Fire Chief

City of Fairfield Fire Department

January 20, 2023

Governor Mike DeWine:

On behalf of the City of Fairfield Fire Department, I am writing to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,



**Thomas M. Wagner**

Deputy Fire Chief, EMS Operations

Fairfield Fire Department

375 Nilles RD

Fairfield, OH 45014(513) 858-8311 - office

twagner@fairfield-city.org

***Smoke Detectors Save Lives***

375 Nilles Road, Fairfield, Ohio 45014-2602 (513) 867-5379 / FAX (513)867-6060

This Document Available in Alternative Format. TDD (513) 867-5392

Glendale Fire Department

January 12, 2023

Governor Mike DeWine:

On behalf of the Glendale Fire Department and the Village of Glendale, I am writing to to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. Leach, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "MD" clearly visible at the end.

Sabrina D. Leach, MD  
Medical Director, Glendale Fire Department





## *Lynchburg Area Joint Fire & Ambulance District*

*Jeff Turner, Chief*

Governor Mike DeWine:

1-13-2023

On behalf of the Lynchburg Fire and Ambulance District, I am writing to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Turner".

Chief Jeff Turner

937-364-2915



# City of *Mayfield Heights*

## ADMINISTRATION

Anthony DiCicco  
Mayor / Safety Director

## DEPARTMENT OF FIRE

Bruce E. Elliott  
Chief  
Michael F. Braccia  
Assistant Chief



April 3, 2023

Governor Mike DeWine:

On behalf of the Mayfield Heights Fire Department, I am writing to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,

***Bruce Elliott, Fire Chief***

6154 Mayfield Road  
Mayfield Heights, OH 44124  
Office: 440-442-2626 ext. 261  
Cell: 440-382-9400  
Fax: 440-442-0232  
Email: [Bruceelliott@mayfieldheights.org](mailto:Bruceelliott@mayfieldheights.org)



*"A Vibrant Community"*

**CHIEF**

Stephen M. Kelly

**ASSISTANT CHIEF**

DANIEL MACK

**DEPUTY CHIEF**

DAVID JETTER



**MIAMI TOWNSHIP  
FIRE AND EMS**

5888 MCPICKEN DRIVE – MILFORD, OHIO 45150-4904

**ADMINISTRATION**

513-248-3700 (VOICE)  
513-248-3719 (FAX)

**EMERGENCY**

911

February 1, 2023

Governor Mike DeWine,

On behalf of Miami Township Fire & EMS, I am writing to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Kelly".

Stephen Kelly  
Fire Chief



# READING FIRE DEPARTMENT

1000 Market Street | Reading, Ohio 45215  
Phone: (513) 733-5537 | Fax: (513) 842-0072 | [www.readingohio.org](http://www.readingohio.org)



February 1, 2023

Governor Mike DeWine:

On behalf of the Reading Fire Department, I am writing to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Owens', is positioned above the printed name.

Todd Owens  
Fire Chief

# City of Springdale

## Fire Department

DOYLE H. WEBSTER  
Mayor

ANTHONY W. STANLEY II  
Chief

JOHN J. JONES  
City Administrator

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December 16, 2022

Governor Mike DeWine:

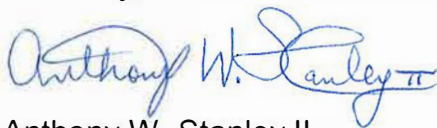
On behalf of the City of Springdale Fire Department, I am writing to to express support for the Ohio Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (Ohio CARES) and ask that state funds be appropriated for this lifesaving organization.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims thousands of lives in Ohio each year and is a leading cause of death due to cardiovascular disease. Cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated quickly, but without prompt treatment, survival rates are low. It is one of the most important public health problems for the State of Ohio.

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Ohio CARES is the tool Ohio communities need to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest. We strongly support adding Ohio CARES to the state operating budget.

Sincerely,



Anthony W. Stanley II  
Fire Chief  
513.346.5580  
astanley@springdale.org