



14 May 2025

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Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
HB 96 – Interested Party

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee thank you for the opportunity today to discuss with you one of the American Heart Association's budget requests. My name is Tim Lewis, and I am the Community Impact Director for Toledo and Dayton for the American Heart Association, which is a national voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

While we often measure life in years, we must measure resuscitation following a cardiac arrest in seconds. Cardiac arrest is when the heart stops abruptly with little or no warning. It is often fatal. Yet, cardiac arrest is reversible for most victims if it's treated within a few minutes. Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) occurs in over 350,000 Americans each year, with low survival rates, making it one of the most important public health problems and a top cause of death from cardiovascular disease. A strong chain of survival can improve the chances of survival and recovery for victims of cardiac arrest.

According to ¹[American Heart Association data](#), 9 out of every 10 people who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital die. Unfortunately, only about 40% of people who experience a cardiac arrest outside a hospital get the immediate help they need before emergency responders arrive.

The American Heart Association has been working across the state of Ohio to implement resources and interventions that will strengthen the chain of survival for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. ²[According to the Resuscitation Academy](#), "The survival rate from cardiac arrest varies widely depending on where you live — and the statistics can be daunting. We can — and must — do better. How can communities measure improvement if they are not able to track results? This is the foundation for improving survival. It's not just tallying whether a patient lives or dies, but all aspects related to care so they can gauge what's working — and what's not. Through continued measurement, communities can correlate improvements with outcomes and identify ways to get even better."

The Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) will provide Fire Departments and EMS agencies with data on bystander CPR and AED intervention before EMS arrives. The CARES program improves collaboration between emergency response departments and hospitals. CARES will help create a greater understanding of where cardiac arrests are occurring, whether bystanders are providing CPR and/or AED intervention prior to EMS arrival, and patient outcomes from the hospital. Utilizing these evidence-based practices and latest guidelines will raise the survival rate for cardiac arrest victims in communities across the state of Ohio.

There are 6 links in the Chain of Survival, ³[as illustrated in the infographic provided](#). The 6 links in the adult out-of-hospital Chain of Survival are:

- **Recognition** of cardiac arrest and **activation** of the emergency response system
- Early **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** with an emphasis on chest compressions
- Rapid **defibrillation**
- Advanced **resuscitation** by Emergency Medical Services and other healthcare providers
- Post-cardiac arrest **care**
- **Recovery** (including additional treatment, observation, rehabilitation, and psychological support)

A strong Chain of Survival can improve chances of survival and recovery for victims of cardiac arrest. Funding this Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival will help communities and community members across the state of Ohio. CARES will strengthen each of those links in that chain of survival. The ultimate goal of the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival is to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest, and funding the work of CARES will lead to longer, healthier lives.

Thank you for the time and I will now answer any questions you may have.

REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/JAHA.118.009873>
2. <https://www.resuscitationacademy.org/blog/2017/02/28/heart-set-change>
3. <https://cpr.heart.org/en/resources/cpr-facts-and-stats/out-of-hospital-chain-of-survival>