



14 May 2025

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the chance to provide testimony today regarding a funding request from the American Heart Association. My name is Amber Higbie, and I am the American Heart Association's CPR in Schools Program manager for Ohio. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss with you an important funding request for HB 96.

I would like to begin by thanking members of the legislature who, via HB 33, appropriated \$598,000 per year to the ODEW Program and project support line item- 200597. The AHA worked collaboratively with the ODEW to make sure these state-allocated funds were being maximized. This funding was instrumental in allowing the ODEW to fulfill its CPR training requirement and provide equipment, curriculum and educator training to approx. 500 Ohio public high schools. Because of this funding you have ensured that roughly 65,000 graduating seniors are entering their communities equipped with the lifesaving skill of CPR and AED training.

Today, I ask you to support one of AHA's priority items by continuing to fund the ODEW through this line item. There are close to 1,000 public high schools in the state and a continuation of this program will ensure that the remaining 500 Ohio high schools receive the same CPR training materials and curriculum, and that educators are trained on how to implement this program on their campuses and continuing education is available to teachers across the state. This will allow all public high schools to sustain this vital curriculum requirement.

Connecting with educators and students is a passion and I am continuously amazed by the stories they share. Personal stories of how CPR affected their lives or stories of students that have used their skills in real life emergency situations. I encourage you to look at the bottom of this written testimony to read what a few teachers submitted, as many of them wanted to share their stories with you, in support of this budget request.

Additionally, and most importantly, by continuing this funding you are ensuring that an additional 242,660 graduating students over the next two years will be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to respond to a Sudden Cardiac Arrest emergency. With over 70% of sudden cardiac arrests occurring in the home, you can provide students with the ability to save their loved one's life. Maybe your loved one's life. Maybe yours.

Thank you

The CPR in Schools program has been vital in reaching 500 high schools across Ohio, training their educators and providing them with the equipment needed to teach high quality bystander CPR to students.

After each facilitator training, educators are given the option to complete a feedback survey. Here are some quotes from that survey:

"This material is so appreciated. Our area is rural and it takes responders an average of 25 minutes to arrive. I am excited to have the equipment to teach our students this skill"

"I really enjoyed the in-person training. The environment and the friendliness of our presenter made it comfortable to ask questions."

"Thank you so much for sending some awesome equipment! It was much needed, and I am very thankful for it! This will allow me to teach CPR and AED use with much more success in my classroom!"

"Thank you for an awesome and detailed teaching! :)"

An email received from Kayla Campos, Health Teacher at Utica High School:

"As a health educator, I was fortunate to have a school nurse who was passionate about & students knowing CPR. We began teaching CPR skills to all of our freshman students at Utica High School in 2010. When it became a graduation requirement in Ohio, I continued to teach CPR skills using the American Heart Association curriculum. I just finished teaching my CPR unit this year with the new kits and curriculum that were provided from the ODE grant project and LOVED it! The interactive web-based app was amazing to use with students. The student engagement was off the charts on the final day when I used this as a "review" and show me your skills activity.

I have had three students have real life situations occur when they needed to use their CPR skills learned in class.

- The first student was with his father grocery shopping. Upon exiting the store, they came upon a man in the parking lot that was in cardiac arrest. He and his father worked together to perform CPR on the man until EMS arrived.
- The second student had an adult in their home go into cardiac arrest and there were no other adults in the house. She performed CPR on the adult and facilitated her younger sibling calling 911. Doctors told her that her actions of getting help immediately and doing CPR played a role in saving the person's life.

- The third student had an adult in his home found non-responsive by his mom. His mom did not know CPR, so the student jumped into action and performed CPR until EMS arrived. He told me his mom was so grateful because she had no idea how to help.

I am thankful for the recent funding provided to get CPR in Schools kits & training into more schools. I believe this will allow more students to receive quality CPR training and have the confidence to act quickly in an emergency.

Mrs. Kayla Campos

Utica High School: High School 101, Health”

This map shows the schools we have been able to reach as well as the schools we will reach with continued funding.

