

### 47th House District

Portions of Butler County, including  
Hamilton and Fairfield, Ross  
Township and portions of Fairfield,  
Hanover and St. Clair townships

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**Sara P. Carruthers**  
Ohio State Representative

### Committees

-Finance-  
-Finance Subcommittee on Health &  
Human Services-  
-Transportation-  
- Behavioral Health- Homeland  
Security-

### Commissions/Councils/Boards

-Early Childhood Advisory Council-  
-Ohio Children's Trust Fund-  
-Ohio Arts Council-  
-Ohio Holocaust & Genocide Memorial  
& Education Commission-

## **House Bill 356 Sponsor Testimony** **House Public Health Policy Committee** **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Liston and members of the House Public Health Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 356.

I am here today to discuss sudden cardiac death in youth, especially young athletes.

According to the National Institutes of Health, an average of six out of every 100,000 children dies of sudden cardiac arrest per year. About 25% of those occur on an athletic field.

Can you imagine the pain and suffering a parent will experience after witnessing their child suddenly have a heart attack at practice, in a game, walking the dog or just going about their day.

The intention of House bill 356 is to decrease the number of sudden cardiac arrests that happen per year by implementing a more direct screening process specifically for cardiomyopathy.

The proposed legislation works to accomplish this goal by enacting the following:

- Requiring the department of Education and the department of Health to design a pamphlet to post on their websites and hand out to all participants in athletic programs, including parents, that outlines and explains warning signs and risks of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- Each organization/club with an athletics program will host an annual meeting to discuss Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- Student athletes and youth athletes will be subject to a yearly physical examination that includes a check list created by The Ohio Department of Health specifically to detect warning signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- All coaches and athletic staff will be required to take a training course designed to know the warning signs, risks and how to handle a Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- Requires all medical staff performing physical examinations on individuals 19 and younger to complete the childhood cardiac screening professional development module once every four years.

Cardiomyopathy affects one in every 200-500 people in the general population. Adding this screening test to student athlete physicals greatly increases the chance of catching the this disease early.

So that the minor could get the care they need in order to continue in their sport or if nothing else, the care they need to continue living a high quality life, and to give their parents a sense of peace that their child will be able to be healthy and well.

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Public Health Policy Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of HB 356. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.