



## AMSSM TESTIMONY REGARDING OHIO HB 47

Statement for the Record  
**Marci Goolsby, MD, FAMSSM**

President

American Medical Society for Sports Medicine

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Committee on Health

Ohio State Senate

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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HB 47 to require emergency action plans and automated external defibrillators in schools.

I am Dr. Marci Goolsby, President of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine. AMSSM represents 5,000 board-certified sports medicine physicians across the nation, including more than 300 sports medicine physicians who practice medicine in Ohio.

AMSSM applauds Representatives Richard Brown and Adam Bird for sponsoring HB 47 and working toward its passage in the Ohio General Assembly.

Preparing for an emergency is the number one action a school can take to ensure the safety of their student athletes. Of course, no one can predict an emergency event, which is why it is critical for schools to create and implement emergency action plans (EAPs) that are specific to each athletic venue, and which include vital emergency components that will help save precious time during an emergency:

- roles for emergency personnel, including athletic leaders, first responders, and other team members
- reliability of emergency communications
- availability of emergency equipment, including AEDs
- planning emergency medical transportation
- clear venue information, including maps and contact information

Creating a thorough and practiced EAP, which can be implemented in many different emergency situations, reduces the potential for wasted time or unorganized responses when emergency situations arise. However, simply creating an EAP is not enough. Each school should adequately rehearse its plan so that it can be effectively deployed when needed. A good EAP should be simple enough for everyone to follow, but specific enough for every member of the team to be effective in responding to an emergency.

One of the most common emergencies faced by student athletes is sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death among student-athletes in the United States. While there are numerous health

benefits from athletic competition and physical activity, studies have shown that the stress of exercise places athletes at a higher risk than their sedentary peers. Raising awareness to identify the danger signs of sudden cardiac arrest is vital to protect all students, especially student-athletes.

AMSSM strongly supports policies that place AEDs in schools. In the event of cardiac arrest, survival rates decrease about 10 percent per minute that elapse before an electrical shock is applied. AMSSM also supports policies that promote CPR training and certification.

AMSSM believes HB 47 will help protect the health and safety of student athletes by requiring schools to develop emergency action plans, including the placement of AEDs in school. Providing these vital tools and training to coaches, teachers, and students will increase the chances of survival in the event of sudden cardiac arrest or other emergency.

Additionally, AMSSM supports clinically appropriate pre-participation screening, led and performed by physicians, to ensure a thorough evaluation of the cardiovascular risks of student-athletes. We also support public policies that require mandatory reporting of all sudden cardiac events in young people.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments. I appreciate the Committee's leadership on this issue. Please reach out to me or Brian Williams, AMSSM's Director of Policy and Advocacy, if we can answer any questions. Brian can be reached at [bwilliams@amssm.org](mailto:bwilliams@amssm.org) or 202-747-4819.