

October 26, 2023

RE: House Bill 47

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Health Committee:

I am writing as a Community Heart Watch volunteer. For several years, I have been involved in the Heartsafe Business component of the Community Heart Watch. I am the Executive Vice President of Fairfield Federal Savings & Loan, which was accredited as a Heartsafe Business in 2013. I strongly support HB 47 to require AEDs and training in schools and athletic venues.

As a Heartsafe Accredited Business, our bank locations have (1) AEDs on the premises, (2) a medical emergency response plan, (3) CPR/AED trained employees, and (4) quarterly medical emergency drills where CPR/AED use are practiced. Additionally, employees have an annual opportunity to take a CPR/AED course provided by our local hospital, Fairfield Medical Center, and become certified in CPR/AED. The ongoing training and regular drills are important; employees feel empowered and confident to assist in a medical emergency, providing the bystander response (until EMS arrives) that is often needed for the cardiac arrest victim to survive.

House Bill 47 will provide the impetus needed for schools, youth sports, and recreation locations to have the life-saving tools and training that are essential during the first few minutes of a cardiac emergency. There are many examples in our community where non-medical bystanders have saved lives with CPR/AED use, and with the passage of this bill there could be many more. I support this measure and encourage the Health Committee of the Ohio Senate to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If I may provide anything further, please contact me at (614) 607-3733, or matthewbryantwideman@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Matthew B. Wideman
Committee Member
Community Heart Watch