



April 15, 2024

Senator Mary Kunesch
Chair, Senate Education Finance Committee.
Minnesota Senate
St. Paul, MN

Dear Chair Kunesch:

Thank you for including Senate File 4293 (Cardiac Emergency Response Plans) in the Senate Education Finance Committee's omnibus education finance bill (SF 5252).

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of sudden death in young athletes and most commonly occurs during or just after physical exertion, while engaged in practice sessions, organized competition, or other sports activities. With only seconds to react and every minute crucial, having an appropriate plan in place during a sudden cardiac emergency can make a difference in survival.

The American Heart Association supports the establishment of cardiac emergency response plans, including AED access, in all schools for all school activities, practices, and competitions. The establishment of this plan will empower and train school personnel on providing lifesaving care between the time when the victim collapses and emergency medical services arrive. **Each minute following sudden cardiac arrest, survival decreases, however, when treated with defibrillation within 3–5 minutes, survival rates increase 50%–70%.**

The AHA applauds Senator Bonnie Westlin for authoring this important legislation and extends our appreciation to you and the committee for supporting this life-changing proposal in your policy bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul L. Weirtz".

Paul L. Weirtz