



April 16, 2024

Chair Mary Kunesch
Chairwoman
Education Finance Committee
3209 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: SF 5252 – Support

To Chairwoman Kunesch and distinguished members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition, I write to express our strong support and appreciation for including funding and language for the Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in the Omnibus Education Finance bill (SF 5252). This provision ensures that public schools throughout the state will have in place best-practice, evidence-based policies that will help to save the lives of young people who experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and similar cardiac emergencies.

Launched in March of 2023, the Smart Heart Sports Coalition is comprised of leading health and patient advocacy groups, as well as major sports leagues and organizations – nearly 40 stakeholders in all. We have come together for a nationwide advocacy campaign to raise awareness and drive adoption of policies proven to prevent fatalities from SCA within school communities. These core, life-saving policies are as follows:

- Clearly-marked automated external defibrillators (or AEDs) at or within 1-3 minutes of each high school athletic venue where practices, competitions, or other events are held;
- An athletic Emergency Response Plan that is specific to each athletic venue, and posted, widely-distributed, regularly rehearsed, and updated annually, if needed; and
- Education and training in CPR, including AED use, for high school coaches and other key personnel.

Adopting these policies is critical, especially given that sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of sudden death among young athletes.

With the inclusion of CERPS in the Omnibus Education Funding bill, SF 5252 does just that, thereby ensuring Minnesota is a leader in protecting young athletes from a preventable fatal injury. Specifically, the measure requires every public school to adopt and rehearse a CERP, which specifies in writing the specific steps school personnel must take to immediately and effectively respond to a student or other individual who experiences a sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity.

These plans will ensure Minnesota's school communities are better equipped and prepared to respond to a SCA if and when they occur.

We, therefore, urge the committee and entire legislature to pass the CERP provisions as part of the Omnibus Education Funding bill. Doing so will expand and support a community of lifesavers in Minnesota and represent a major victory for students throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Edmonds
Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs
National Football League
Member of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition

Members of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition

American College of Cardiologists
American College of Sports Medicine
American Heart Association
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Red Cross
Association of Black Cardiologists
Chasing M's Foundation
Citizen CPR Foundation
Heart Rhythm Society
John Taylor Babbitt Foundation
Korey Stringer Institute
Major League Baseball
Major League Soccer
Make Them Know Your Name Foundation
National Academy of Sports Medicine
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Basketball Association
National Collegiate Athletic Association
National Council of Youth Sports
National Federation of State High School Associations
National Football League
National Football League Physicians Society

National Hockey League
National Women's Soccer League
Parent Heart Watch
Pediatric and Congenital Electrophysiology Society
Project ADAM
Simon's Heart
Sport Safety International
Starting Hearts
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation
T.J. Carrie Foundation
United States Tennis Association
Weil Institute (The Max Harry Weil Institute for Critical Care Research)
Who We Play For
Women's National Basketball Association
Women's Tennis Association