



To Senator Steve A. Cwudzinski

Chair, Senate Education Policy Committee and members of the committee:

I am a member of a grassroots organization called the Minnesota SCA Advocates. SCA stands for sudden cardiac arrest – when the heart suddenly stops beating effectively and a person will die if something isn't done quickly to bring the heart back to normal rhythm.

Minnesota SCA Advocates is a group established in 2024 with a mission of saving lives from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) by building a statewide collaboration of individuals and organizations dedicated to education, prevention and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

Several dozen people are members of the organization – many of them parents of adolescents who had SCA. Some lost a precious son or daughter to SCA, others have a son or daughter who survived SCA (due to prompt cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR by bystanders and the use of an automated external defibrillator or AED). Other members are adult SCA survivors, community advocates and/or leaders involved in SCA education, awareness and CPR/AED training and AED placement.

Members of our group have helped train thousands of Minnesotans in CPR and AED use, and have raised money for AEDs in schools, parks and public buildings.

I understand that your committee may soon review Senate File 1457 regarding cardiac emergency response plans for schools. From my own experience, I can vouch for the importance of this bill.

Our company works to make AEDs accessible to the public by installing them in Outdoor Smart Monitoring Cabinets. We also train community members when these are placed in a new area to help promote bystander action during SCA. In July 2024, we saw the power of public AED access when a neighbor helped another neighbor who had collapsed from SCA. Someone grabbed the AED out of the outdoor cabinet in the neighborhood, started CPR and used the AED to deliver a lifesaving shock. The actions of these bystanders saved this person's life! Access, Action and Awareness can truly help save lives.

Thank you for considering this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Jessica Theisen, President

Rich Feneis, Founder

Joel Vogel Program Director