



Dear members of the Education Committee, my name is Mike Schoonover, and I represent the Patrick Schoonover Heart Foundation. I am testifying today to support SF1457-Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

My wife Gayle and I lost our 14-year-old son Patrick to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). On November 24, 2014, Patrick and his Eastview teammates were playing in the Blue Ox Bantam hockey tournament in Brainerd. After scoring the game's first goal, Patrick was bodychecked and collapsed. The Medical Examiner determined Patrick had 2-undetected heart conditions. In 2015 we started the Patrick Schoonover Heart Foundation because we did not want families to feel the same grief, we felt losing our son.

The goal of the foundation is to bring SCA awareness, education and prevention to our communities and eliminate SCA in teenagers and young adults.

SCA is the leading cause of death among student athletes. The foundation offers FREE Play for Patrick heart screens for participants ages 14-24 throughout Minnesota regardless of race, gender, income, or demographics.

Play For Patrick Heart screens include Height/Weight, Blood Pressure, EKG, echocardiogram, and physician consultation. Additionally, participants receive hands only CPR and AED training. The foundation also donates AEDs to host schools.

From August 2015 to February 2025, the Patrick Schoonover Heart Foundation conducted 38 Play for Patrick heart screens. Screened 6,664 kids, found 430 with elevated blood pressure (with repeated check), 358 with abnormal electrical or structural heart defects, taught 5,435 kids & adults CPR & AED awareness and donated 22 AEDs to area schools.

Five percent of the kids we screen have a cardiac abnormality that may cause sudden cardiac arrest. We cannot screen all kids 14-24 in the state. However, the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan will help reduce the number of kids we lose to SCA every year.

We believe CERP will save our kids, as well as teachers, staff, parents, and others, and I hope you will support this bill.

Thank you!

