

February 21, 2025

Senator Steve A. Cwodzinski, Chair
Senate Education Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support of Senate File 1457, legislation that will require cardiac emergency response plans in schools. Unfortunately, I will be out of town next week and will not be able to share my family's experience with sudden cardiac arrest with you personally.

On September 24, 2024, my son Keegan, then a Stillwater High School sophomore, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest during football practice. He was stricken during a non-contact drill. Thanks to the quick action of his coaches and the life-saving efforts of the Stillwater athletic trainers who administered CRP and AED (automated external defibrillator) aid to Keegan, his heartbeat was restored, and he was breathing on his own.

Keegan was rushed to Regions Hospital and then Gillette Children's Hospital where he was placed in a medical induced coma for 72 hours. We later learned that Keegan's sudden cardiac arrest was linked to Torsade de Pointes, a type of heart rhythm disorder.

Keegan's football playing days are over, but he continues to thrive as a high school student and works on fixing up cars in his spare time.

No parent should have to experience what we went through with sudden cardiac arrest. Keegan's story serves as an important lesson on the proper training and availability of AEDs in schools and athletic programs. Senate File 1457 will ensure that all Minnesota schools have the planning and tools in place in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest.

I ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Katie Hawke
143 Maryknoll Drive, Stillwater, MN 55082