



Senator Steve Cwodzinski  
Chair, Education Policy Committee  
Room 1200 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 24th, 2025

Chair and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Athletic Trainers' Association (MATA) in response to **SF 1457**, which would require cardiac emergency response plans in schools.

As an association, the MATA strives to improve the quality of healthcare for athletes, students, patients, and the public through cooperative efforts with all allied health professions. Athletic trainers along with school nurses are at the forefront of keeping our students safe and healthy during school activities. We work extensively with school officials and local emergency response teams to ensure emergency action plans, which include cardiac emergency response plans, are in place and properly implemented in times of critical emergencies.

Buffalo Bills Athletic Trainer, Denny Kellington was the first person to initiate CPR when Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field during a National Football League game two years ago. His extensive training and quick execution of an emergency action plan including immediate performance of CPR is credited as one of the reasons Damar Hamlin survived. The Damar Hamlin situation and his support of the American Heart Association is one of the many reasons this bill was drafted. Stillwater Athletic Trainers Michael Renfro and Olivia DuBois were granted Save Awards after their quick deployment of an AED and CPR after Keegan Hawke suffered sudden cardiac arrest at football practice this fall.

In support of our mission, the MATA is in support of improving the requirements for schools related to cardiac emergency response plans. We believe all schools should have clearly written, supported and practice emergency response plans that cover before, during and after school activities. We also believe that school nurses and athletic trainers should be primary members creating and implementing school cardiac emergency response plans and key individuals responsible for assembling the members of the cardiac emergency response team.

Thank you,

Kathleen Taber, M.Ed., LAT, ATC  
Past President and GAC Chair, Minnesota Athletic Trainers' Association