



February 25, 2005

To: Members of the Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee

Fr: Tyler Williams, Minnesota Vikings - Vice President of Player Health and Performance

Re: SF 1457- Requiring Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in Minnesota Schools

The Minnesota Vikings are pleased to support SF 1457 which would require schools in Minnesota to have cardiac emergency response plans and provides funding to school districts to assist in implementing these plans. I serve as the Minnesota Vikings Vice President of Player Health and Performance, and I understand how important this measure is for the health and safety of all Minnesota students who participate in athletics.

As we have seen in recent professional sporting events, sudden cardiac emergencies can occur at any moment, and the most critical component of care is the preparedness to act. For example, the Minnesota Vikings have taken the initiative to be proactive and provide annual first aid, CPR, and AED training to our coaching staff. We would encourage the State of Minnesota to take this same proactive approach by passing SF 1457, to implement these cardiac emergency response plans in our schools.

Thank you to Senator Bonnie Westlin for authoring this legislation and thank you to the American Heart Association and other organizations in Minnesota who are supporting this important proposal. We urge you to pass SF 1457.

Thank you.