



To Senator Mary K. Kunesch,
Chair, Senate Education Finance 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.

Advocates for Health is a certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to increasing the chance of survival from SCA. Throughout the states of Minnesota, South Dakota Connecticut, Iowa and Florida we have placed over 300 life-saving AEDs in publicly accessible outdoor AED smart cabinets.

Thank you for considering this vital legislation.

Sincerely,
Jessica Theisen
Advocates For Health