

To Senator Mary K. Kunesch,  
Chair, Senate Education Finance Committee and members of the committee:

We are members 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 us are parents of adolescents who had SCA. Some of us have 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.

We understand that your committee may soon review Senate File 1457 regarding cardiac emergency response plans for schools. From our own experience, we can vouch for the importance of this bill.

On July 22, 2019, our seemingly healthy 16-year-old son Aidan collapsed and died of sudden cardiac arrest in a rural area of Southeastern Minnesota while fishing with his friends. While his friends immediately started CPR, it took emergency responders 20 minutes to arrive with an AED, but it did not advise a shock, it was too late. We have since learned that SCA is the #1 killer of kids on school campuses and student athletes and what immediate action, and an AED can do to increase the survival rates.

Thank you for considering this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Dan & Karen Miller  
Parents of Aidan Miller