

## **Dale Wakasugi Testimony**

### **Senate File 1457**

Good afternoon, Chair Kunesh and members of the Senate Education Finance Committee. I am Dale Wakasugi, a heart attack and cardiac arrest survivor, resident of Woodbury, Minnesota, a community advocate on behalf of the American Heart Association and owner of MY AED & CPR Solutions.

I am pleased to be here today to offer my support for Senate File 1457, legislation that would require school districts and charter schools to create Cardiac Emergency Response Plans. I suffered a heart attack in 1986 when I was 36 years old due to a blockage of my left anterior descending artery. I was a very active non-drinker, non-smoker who played college baseball.

In 2007, while refereeing a high school basketball game, I suffered cardiac arrest. One of my heroes that day was Lindsey Paradise, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader who knew how to perform CRP and use an AED from learning about it in health class just a few weeks before.

When cardiac arrest occurs outside of a hospital, survival more than doubles when people nearby act by dialing 911, starting CPR and using a publicly available AED compared to waiting for emergency responders to arrive. I support Senate File 1457, because we need to ensure that all schools have Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in place and practiced so anyone who suffers a cardiac arrest, whether it be a student, teacher, school administrator or members of the community can receive the life-saving treatment they need.

I want to thank Senator Westlin for authoring this important legislation. Thank you, Chair Kunesh and members of the committee, for your consideration of this bill.