

**Katie Hawke**  
**Senate File 1457 Testimony**  
**Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in Schools**

Dear Chair, Kunesch and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Katie Hawke, I am a first responder in Stillwater, Minnesota. Most importantly, I am a mother. to my son Keegan, a sudden cardiac arrest survivor. I am here today to ask for your support of Senate File 1457, legislation that will require cardiac emergency response plans in schools.

On September 24, 2024, my son Keegan, then a Stillwater High School sophomore, suffered a sudden cardiac arrest during a non-contract drill at football practice. Thanks to the quick action of his coaches and the life-saving efforts of the Stillwater athletic trainers who administered CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) aid to Keegan, his heartbeat was restored, and he was breathing on his own.

Keegan was rushed to Regions Hospital and then Gillette Children's Hospital where he was placed in a medical induced coma for 72 hours. We later learned that Keegan's sudden cardiac arrest was linked to Torsade de Pointes, a type of heart rhythm disorder.

Keegan's football playing days are over, but he continues to thrive as a high school student and works on fixing up cars in his spare time.

No parent should have to experience what we went through with sudden cardiac arrest. Keegan's story serves as an important need for schools to implement cardiac emergency response plans on proper planning, training and the availability of AEDs in schools and athletics programs. Senate File 1457 will ensure that all Minnesota schools have the planning and tools in place in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest.

Thank you for the time this morning to share my family's story. I ask for your support of this important legislation.