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**S.F.1457 TESTIMONY
IN-FAVOR/SUPPORT**

Testimony Leads - In-Person

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Supporting Documentation

[Website Handout](#)
[Cardiac Training Documentation](#)

To Senator Mary K. Kunesch

Chair, Senate Education Policy Committee and Members of the Committee:

As one of the members included in the strategic development of Shakopee Public Schools district-wide approach to cardiac safety, I am here, alongside our Health Services Supervisor, to attest to the critical need for a comprehensive cardiac emergency response plan in every school across the state.

The fact that *this* effort is being championed at *this* level is beyond commendable and deeply resonates with our district. It's exciting to see the bill's progression and potential.

A comprehensive and effective cardiac emergency response plan has been a long-term priority for our district. We've worked diligently to ensure it's well-planned, visible, accessible, reliable and clearly communicated because we understand that readiness in these situations is paramount.

Shakopee serves roughly 8,000 students, has 10 schools and spans roughly 378 total acres of property. Our district's commitment to cardiac emergency preparedness extends far beyond athletics and extracurricular activities. It is a fundamental aspect of our daily school operations, encompassing the entire school day, before and after-school programs and on-site activities.

At Shakopee High School alone, roughly 60 non-school related events have been held onsite, after-hours over the past 12-months furthering the need for proper safety resources and support.

More than 1,000 people, of all ages, are affected by cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting each day.

In turn, school districts are community spaces where hundreds and thousands of individuals, of all ages, gather thus increasing the need for proper safety resources.

In the spring of 2023, Shakopee was proudly designated the first Heart Safe School District in the State of Minnesota as certified by Project Adam. The requirements of this certification directly align with those being presented in Senate File (S.F) 1457.

In Shakopee, this certification was made possible due to the support of donations led by Janni Hennes, a registered nurse and community volunteer, in addition to the efforts of our students, Children's Minnesota Hospital and Shakopee Police Department, among many others.

Due to the voluntary community leadership that was initiated in 2018, 42 of our district's 54 AEDs have been donated.

Cardiac emergency preparedness requires comprehensive planning, training and equipment, extending beyond nurses and EMS.

As part of our plan in Shakopee, we have designated teams in place with roles clearly defined and AEDs strategically located throughout all buildings. An easy to follow "How to" card is attached to each device.

We have an assigned district-wide phone number that is easy to recall and will quickly activate the appropriate cardiac response team.

Placement and location of AEDs is critical. All of our schools have multiple devices inside the building and strategically placed in outdoor fields and community spaces. This illustrates the depth and scope of our plan.

We emphasize purposeful and repeated training, building muscle memory and confidence in our staff.

Per Project Adam, the best chance of saving a life is within the first 4 minutes of a sudden cardiac arrest. Early and effective CPR has been demonstrated to double or triple the chance of survival for children and adults.

The need is real.

The accessibility to AEDs, purposeful training and a practiced plan are critical to saving lives. Thanks to readily available resources from various partners, we can also confirm these plans are truly achievable.

A cardiac emergency response plan is not a luxury; it's an immediate necessity. Schools are public spaces and the lives of Minnesotans depend on comprehensive plans such as the amendment outlined in S.F. 1457.

We are here to affirm that it *should* be done – it *can* be done – and it *will* make a difference - and with this bill, ALL Minnesotans will win.

With excitement,

Tiffany Olson and Tracy Courneya on behalf of Shakopee Public Schools ISD. #720