

DATE: March 24, 2025

FROM: Oregon's pediatric cardiologists, pediatric cardiology nurse practitioners and physician associates, and pediatric cardiac surgeons

SUBJECT: HB 2529, Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

Support for HB 2529: Strengthening Cardiac Emergency Response in Oregon Schools

House Bill 2529 supports the creation of a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan in schools, reinforcing current laws surrounding AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) and ultimately saving the lives of Oregon's children experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.

This letter is signed by every Pediatric Cardiologist, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, Pediatric Cardiology Advanced Practitioner, and Pediatric Cardiology Fellow practicing in Oregon.

We strongly request your support for HB 2529.

The loss of a family member is always heartbreaking, but the death of a seemingly healthy child in the prime of their youth is a tragedy beyond measure. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading non-traumatic cause of death among young athletes, and the majority of these children could be saved with prompt, high-quality CPR and rapid access to an AED.

Cardiac arrest is a sudden loss of heart function that can lead to death unless immediate medical care is provided. While bystander CPR can be lifesaving, it is challenging to execute effectively, with success rates far lower than those depicted on television. The best outcomes occur in situations where CPR is performed by a trained team with a clear plan, who can immediately access an AED. Simply receiving CPR or having an AED available on campus is often insufficient. Every minute of delay reduces the chance of survival, and without a comprehensive Cardiac Emergency Response Plan, children in need of urgent care face greater risks. Research has shown that having such a plan can more than double the survival rate from cardiac arrest.

Oregon currently mandates the presence of AEDs in schools, but there is still room for improvement—particularly in terms of better access, regular maintenance, and comprehensive training for potential responders.

This bill has the potential to be truly lifesaving for many children in Oregon. The signees of this letter represent every pediatric cardiac provider in the state. We ask that you support HB 2529 to help ensure the well-being of all Oregon students.

Signed,

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