



March 24, 2025

Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Saurabh Gupta. I am a practicing cardiologist at the Saint Charles Health System, as well as the current Governor of the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACC). Today, I am testifying to lend my **full support to House Bill 2529**, sponsored by Representative Grayber.

House Bill 2529 will require public and private schools to develop cardiac emergency response plans (CERP) to respond to incidents involving an individual who is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Additionally, the bills provide funding to train response teams and for schools to purchase and maintain an AED on-site.

Cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, at any time. More than 23,000 children under 18 experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year. 40% of these are sports-related. This prevalence of sudden cardiac arrest in our youth is why House Bill 2529 is so important. Having a comprehensive plan, like a CERP, with a trained team in place to respond to sudden cardiac arrest can make the difference between life and death.

A CERP can be a stand-alone guideline or merged with a school's existing medical emergency response plans. Since it can merge with an existing plan, a CERP is straightforward to implement and seamlessly integrates into existing systems without placing an undue burden on schools. Additionally, House Bill 2529 aligns with the recently passed federal legislation. The Hearts Act, a bipartisan bill, was signed into law in December and authorizes a federal grant program to help schools purchase AEDs and obtain CPR training for coaches. While we wait for Congress to make the appropriation to the program, Oregon has the chance to jumpstart its school's access to AEDs and lifesaving measures.

House Bill 2529 will equip our schools with AEDs and school responders who are trained in sudden cardiac arrest response, ultimately saving lives and strengthening our communities. I urge the committee to pass House Bill 2529.

Thank you.

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Oregon ACC Chapter Governor

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