



March 24, 2025

**VIA EMAIL TO:** [Rep.CourtneyNeron@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.CourtneyNeron@oregonlegislature.gov)  
[Shane.Gaffikin@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Shane.Gaffikin@oregonlegislature.gov)

Oregon Legislature  
House Committee on Education  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for House Bill 2529 – Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in Schools**

Dear Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the House Committee on Education,

On behalf of Parent Heart Watch—the leading national voice solely dedicated to protecting children and young adults from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and preventable sudden cardiac death—I respectfully urge your support of HB 2529 with the following recommended amendments to strengthen its life-saving impact.

Each year, an estimated 23,000 children under age 18 experience out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest—the leading cause of death on school campuses. Yet most schools and youth organizations remain underprepared to recognize and respond to a cardiac emergency, despite investing significant time and resources in fire safety and concussion protocols, which pose considerably lower risks.

**Recommended Amendments:**

**Section 1. (2) Line 10** *The location of each automated external defibrillator must be clearly identified with a three-dimensional AED sign and be in an unlocked location that is accessible when students are at the school, including when students are at the school for athletic events or practices. We recommend clarifying that the AED must be visible from all angles—not just when standing directly in front of it—by requiring a three-dimensional AED sign. Additionally, during athletic events and practices, the AED should be located on the sidelines to eliminate critical delays in retrieval. In a cardiac emergency, every second matters.*

**Section 1. (B) (h) Line 5** *Annual cardiac emergency response drills ~~on the use of automated external defibrillators.~~ While we strongly support the inclusion of a drill requirement in this legislation, we recommend revising the language*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chairman**

Teresa Mago  
Indiana

**Vice Chairman**

Steve Tannenbaum, Esq.  
New York

**Treasurer**

Matthew Mangine  
Kentucky

**Secretary**

Melinda Murray-Nyack  
New York

**Members**

Karen Acompora  
New York

Jim Markisohn

Florida

Hector Paredes

California

Susan Toler Carr

California

Ashlee Valavala

Texas

**MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD**

**Chairperson**

Victoria L. Vetter, M.D., MPH

**Members**

Stuart Berger, M.D.

Jonathan A. Drezner, M.D.

Stephanie H. Felgoise, PhD, ABPP

Kimberly G. Harmon, M.D.

Salim F. Idriss, M.D., PhD, FACC

Ronald J. Kanter, M.D.

Maryam Y. Naim, M.D., MSCE

Frank J. Zimmerman, M.D.

**STAFF**

**Executive Director**

Martha Lopez-Anderson  
Florida

**Communications and Marketing**

**Manager**

Maureen Legg  
Georgia

**March 24, 2025**  
**Oregon Legislature**  
**House Committee on Education**  
**Page 2**

“~~Annual Drill on the Use of Automated External Defibrillators~~” to “Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) Drill.” Referring to it as a drill on the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) oversimplifies the full scope of a coordinated action required in a cardiac emergency.

A CERP drill reflects national best practices and ensures that all critical steps are rehearsed: recognizing cardiac arrest, calling 911, initiating CPR, retrieving and using the AED, and directing EMS to the scene. The objective is not merely AED familiarity, but ensuring staff can respond swiftly and in sync when every second counts. Using precise terminology emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive and effective emergency response.

By adopting these amendments, HB 2529 will more accurately reflect best practices in cardiac emergency preparedness and equip Oregon schools with the tools needed to save lives.

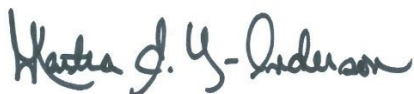
Thank you for your leadership and commitment to student safety.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 407.399.1039 or [martha@parentheartwatch.org](mailto:martha@parentheartwatch.org).

#### **About Parent Heart Watch**

Parent Heart Watch is the leading national nonprofit organization solely dedicated to protecting children and young adults from sudden cardiac arrest and preventable sudden cardiac death. With members across 40 states, we focus on education, awareness, advocacy for life-saving policies, and providing resources to safeguard young lives. To date, Parent Heart Watch and its members have provided heart screenings for over 1.1 million children and young adults, trained more than 835,000 individuals in CPR and AED use, and placed nearly 12,000 AEDs in schools and community spaces where children gather.

Sincerely,



Martha Lopez-Anderson  
Executive Director & Mother of SCA Victim