

Submitter: Kristy Brindley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2529

I am writing in full SUPPORT of this bill as a mother who lost her 16 year old son to sudden cardiac arrest at the age of 16. Michael was playing basketball at summer camp when he collapsed from SCA. An AED was in the building but because there wasn't a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) in place, lack of training ... how to recognize and respond to SCA, we lost our precious son that day. Seconds, minutes can mean the difference between life and death. Had a plan been in place and the proper training executed, our son would have been given a chance to survive. But without a plan and training, no one has a chance to survive ... our chances decrease by 10% each minute without intervention. Our family created the just1mike foundation to honor the life of our beautiful son by helping to save the lives of others. Our work includes placing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and requiring Cardiac Emergency Response Plans complete with drills as a mandatory part of our program. Our first donation of outdoor, publicly accessible AED stations was given in 2022. Just three months after installation, the life of another 16 year boy, named Michael, playing basketball. Because an AED was just steps from the court and his three friends who were there with him quickly recognized and responded to the emergency, Mikey's life was saved. A second outdoor AED station, part of this donation in 2022, was placed at an outdoor aquatic center. In January of this year a life-guard collapsed during a guard training session. Fellow guards jumped into action and used the AED placed at the pool. This man's life was saved because of their quick actions. Knowing how to recognize and respond to a cardiac emergency, the key parts of a CERP helped to save these two lives. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the U.S., the #1 cause of death on school campuses and the #1 killer of student athletes (12-25). Automated external defibrillators, cardiac emergency response plans and hands-only CPR training is critical to increasing the survival rates of SCA, just 10% in the United States. It is my hope and my prayer that this legislation will pass and I know it will save lives in Oregon as well as serve as a leading example of what all the United States should put in place. From the heart of a grieving mother, Kristy Brindley.