

Submitter: Bradley Petek
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2529

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Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee, my name is Bradley Petek. I am the current Director of Sports Cardiology at Oregon Health and Science University and serve as a sports cardiologist for numerous teams/organizations throughout the state of Oregon. Today I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 2529, sponsored by Representative Grayber.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the number one medical cause of death in young competitive athletes and is much more common than expected with significant disparities in some athlete populations. For example, in our research, we have demonstrated that the risk of a sudden cardiac arrest event may be as high as 1/500 among Black Division 1 male basketball players over a 4-year college career. This high incidence of sudden cardiac arrest in our youth and athletes is why House Bill 2529 is so important. Having a comprehensive cardiac emergency response plan, with an AED readily available will save lives.

Additionally, there are possible medicolegal implications of not having an adequate emergency medical response. My research has also demonstrated that more than 50% of lawsuits among young competitive athletes with heart conditions are due to an inadequate emergency medical response. This includes lack or delays in bystander CPR, lack of an AED present or the AED not being used, or no recognition of a sudden cardiac arrest event. We need to equip our schools with the tools to not only ensure positive outcomes for students with sudden cardiac arrest, but also decrease Oregon schools' liability for not responding to a sudden cardiac arrest event correctly.

A cardiac emergency response plan is straightforward to implement and seamlessly integrates into existing systems without placing an undue burden on schools. I urge the committee to pass House Bill 2529 and protect our students and athletes. I am happy to answer any questions.