

Chair Neron and members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Casey VanDorn, I am a Senior at Pendleton High School in Pendleton Oregon, sharing my support of House Bill 2529.

I am a congenital heart disease warrior. I was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. With this syndrome the left side of the heart doesn't develop fully. Instead, the right side of the heart must pump blood to the lungs and the rest of the body and essentially operate as a single Ventricle heart. I had my first open heart surgery at 9 months old. Prior to surgery my oxygen levels often dipped below 70% which resulted in me going into cardiac arrest during my first heart catheterization. Luckily, I was at the hospital and received prompt care and attention and was able to be revived, suffering no ill effects. However, this led my parents to immediately have a better understanding of how important it is to know CPR and have defibrillators available in as many places as possible. If I hadn't been at the hospital during my cardiac arrest my outcome could have been quite different.

After my second surgery, done as a kindergartener, my oxygen saturation levels have now stabilized near 85%, which is great, but still below the average person. This allows me to be a very active 18-year-old, but also means I get tired quicker and more winded. My cardiologist, Dr. Richard Jensen, encourages me to be active every time I see him and is always excited to hear about my adventures. I enjoy playing hockey, golf, hunting, fishing, trap shooting, and Xbox playing. I also enjoy riding horses and playing with my dogs Hunter & Lucy.

It is hard to believe the changes in procedures, care, and medications in the last four decades. I want to be part of changes that improve lives like mine. I'm excited about advocating for other kids - kids (like me) with hearts that don't exactly work right! This is why I'm giving testimony to support HB 2529 to ensure all have AEDs, that people in schools are trained in CPR and written plans are in place to help save lives. My family and I are aware of how seconds can make miraculous differences. I hope my story helps you realize that these types of changes could help you to help a friend, family member, or the kid next door.

Sincerely, Casey VanDorn