



To: Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chapter of SDAO

Date: March 26, 2025

Re: HB 2529 - Testimony in Support

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chapter of SDAO, we are testifying in support of HB 2529.

In sudden cardiac arrests, the heart is in a dysrhythmia that only defibrillation can correct. AEDs locally available is critical in these situations as blood flow to the heart and brain cease. Tissue damage occurs after 4-6 minutes. Prompt defibrillation is a critical intervention. Ensuring the availability of AEDs and training personnel to use them is a critical step in protecting the health and well-being of students, teachers, and families in our schools.

This initiative aligns with the core mission of fire and EMS services—caring for and safeguarding our communities. We respectfully ask for your support for HB 2529 to strengthen school safety and improve emergency response capabilities across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration!