

Submitter:

Seshadri Balaji

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4160

House Committee on Education Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 4160

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Seshadri Balaji MD, and I am a pediatric cardiologist and electrophysiologist. I am writing in strong support of HB 4160, which would require Oregon schools to develop and implement Cardiac Emergency Response Plans. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading non-traumatic cause of death in young athletes and can occur in any child, staff member, or visitor on school grounds. Survival depends on immediate recognition, CPR, and rapid access to an AED.

In my clinical practice of over 30 years, I have seen the devastating impact of sudden cardiac arrest when AEDs are not immediately available or accessible. Delays in defibrillation too often result in preventable loss of life and lifelong consequences for families and school communities. HB 4160 provides schools with a clear, practical framework to ensure trained responders, accessible AEDs, and coordinated emergency response when seconds matter most.

I urge the committee to support HB 4160 and take this critical step to protect the health and safety of Oregon's students and school communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Seshadri Balaji MD