



KNIGHT
CARDIOVASCULAR
Institute

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February 10, 2026

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Bradley Petek, and I am the current Director of Sports Cardiology at Oregon Health and Science University. I serve as a sports cardiologist for numerous teams/organizations throughout the state of Oregon. Today, I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 4160.

I have worked to lead research on sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in young competitive athletes on an international level. In our prior studies, we have demonstrated sudden cardiac arrest is the number one medical cause of death in young competitive athletes.(1) The numbers are quite staggering with a risk of a sudden cardiac arrest event of nearly 1/500 in NCAA Division 1 male Black basketball players. Additionally, there are significant disparities in survival from SCA based on the location of the event and emergency preparedness. We have demonstrated that athletes who have SCA events that occur in practice locations (where there is less likely to be an AED or someone who is CPR trained) or locations of lower socioeconomic status are more likely to die from the event.(2) These findings are why House Bill 4160 is so important. Having a comprehensive plan, like a cardiac emergency response plan, for all schools in Oregon will save lives.

There are also possible medicolegal implications of not having an adequate emergency response. Our research demonstrates that more than 1/3 of lawsuits among young competitive athletes with heart conditions are due to an inadequate cardiac emergency response, with settlements in the millions of dollars.(3) This includes lack or delays in bystander CPR, lack of an AED present or the AED not being used, or no recognition of an SCA event. We need to equip our schools with responders to not only ensure positive outcomes in SCA but also decrease Oregon schools' liability for not responding to a SCA 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 4160 and protect our students and athletes. Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns.

1. Petek BJ, Churchill TW, Moulson N et al. Sudden Cardiac Death in National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletes: A 20-Year Study. *Circulation* 2024;149:80-90.
2. Petek BJ, Churchill TW, Moulson N et al. Survival Outcomes After Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Young Competitive Athletes From the United States. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2025.
3. Weller SL, Barat M, Weller Z et al. Medical Malpractice Claims for Sports Cardiology Cases Among Young Athletes. *JACC: Advances* 2025;4:101915.

Most sincerely,

Bradley J. Petek, MD, FACC