



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Zach Hudson, Chair House Committee on Education
Representative April Dobson, Vice-Chair House Committee on Education
Representative Emily McIntire, Vice-Chair House Committee on Education
Members of the House Committee on Education

February 10, 2026

Re: Support for House Bill 4160, the Cardiac Bill

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 4160.

HB 4160 is about one simple question: if a cardiac emergency happens at a school, are the adults in the room prepared to respond? Sudden cardiac arrest doesn't wait for an ambulance, and it doesn't wait for confusion to be sorted out. Survival depends on minutes: on recognition, CPR, and rapid access to an AED. This bill ensures schools are ready when seconds matter most.

HB 4160 requires all K–12 public and private schools to have a cardiac emergency response plan as part of their existing medical emergency procedures. The plan must ensure that at least one AED is available, clearly marked, unlocked, and accessible during the school day and during athletic practices and competitions. It requires schools to share AED locations with local emergency medical services, maintain and test the equipment, and ensure that coaches and other appropriate staff are trained in CPR and AED use. The plan is reviewed annually so it stays current and practical. This is not about bureaucracy; it's about clarity, readiness, and accountability.

Being a parent of four children who competed in high-level athletics, I know how quickly something can go wrong on a practice field.

This issue is personal to me. Thirteen years ago, while chaperoning a student trip, an older gentleman suffered a cardiac event on an airplane. Another passenger and I attempted CPR and to use the AED on board. But it was not functional. We couldn't help him, and he passed away. To this day we don't know if that AED had been functional, we could have saved that gentleman's life.

I've also heard from a young constituent in my district, Kaleb Lahr, a 15-year-old living with congenital heart disease, and you will hear from him shortly, along with other experts and compelling testimony.

HB 4160 does not mandate schools purchase additional AEDs. And it preserves local control in how schools implement their plans. It is a clean-up of existing statute, not an unfunded mandate.

For schools that choose to add or replace an AED, there are free and reduced-cost options available. For the committee's reference, examples of state, nonprofit, and community-based programs that provide free or donated AEDs have been posted to OLIS. Preparing ahead of time is also fiscally responsible. Failure to do so can expose schools to tragic outcomes and costly litigation, as we've seen in other states.

We know that sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in young athletes, and that survival depends on preparation, training, and access to an AED. HB 4160 ensures those basics are in place.

I respectfully ask for your support.

This bill saves lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dwayne Yunker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Dwayne Yunker
State Representative, Oregon House District 3

Examples of free and low-cost resources for obtaining AED devices:

<https://www.aedgrant.com/>

At AED Grant, any institution can apply for an AED in their establishment by simply filling out an application form. Getting one is not free, but the price is significantly slashed when using AEDGrant.

<https://providencebasecamp.org/aeddonation>

The Providence St. Vincent Medical Foundation has awarded over 150 AEDs since 2017 to schools, churches, and other community institutions. These have mostly gone to places in Oregon, with a few going to Washington. Simply fill out the application. They review and award on a quarterly basis.

https://www.aedsuperstore.com/resources/community-aed-grants/?srsltid=AfmBOopVWez4Wiq3iV3aOhHuV_g0IwhLZgRSEejFmYx2bCWQelCAcBYX

AED Superstore offers as a hub for several grant options for communities wanting AEDs. Some grants are only eligible to institutions in certain areas, but there are grant options for schools and other establishments in Oregon. From the AED Superstore, you simply visit the link to the website of the grant provider and follow their application instructions.

https://aed.us/pages/aed-donations?srsltid=AfmBOopu_G5PqmaxC57Jc0chF9eiqsKecPmeEDqPIPjzGT911H-Eu6kH

At AED.US, one can apply to receive a donated AED. Each month, a donation recipient is chosen. Simply follow the application steps on the website to enter the donation program.