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SENATE

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KELLIE WARREN
11TH DISTRICT

January 17, 2024

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair, Mr. Ranking Minority Member, and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to be here in strong support of HB 2494. You may recall that I had the privilege of requesting introduction of the same language for a Senate bill last week in front of you at the joint meeting of the Senate and House Education Committees.

My involvement with this policy began over a year ago. I learned that a friend and neighbor's high school son suddenly collapsed during baseball practice due to cardiac arrest. It took thirteen minutes of CPR and an AED to save her son. Thankful that her son fully recovered, my friend started an advocacy group to teach CPR to others and has been working diligently to make sure that at our Kansas schools kids and their loved ones have the best opportunity to survive an unexpected cardiac emergency. She took the next step and talked with me this summer about creating legislation encouraging automatic external defibrillators to be made more widely available to help ensure other kids have the same chance to survive cardiac arrest.

Around that same time, I learned there was already an effort being led by Chair Thomas and the American Heart Association, and other constituents on this exact issue. Thank you to those of you supporting and working on this important endeavor. And most importantly thank you very much to those of you who are in the building today to share your personal story of how a sudden cardiac arrest incident at school has impacted your life. We appreciate you being here and sharing your testimony.

To advance the bill, the proponents have had numerous meetings held throughout the fall and holiday season with many interested parties, several of whom are here today. A sincere effort was made to address any concerns that were raised. It's my understanding that there may still be a need to address the technical language of the bill, but as you all know that is how great legislation is developed. I am hopeful and strongly encourage the parties to work together on those details and keep this legislation moving through the process. I would also like to offer my time and assistance to all parties in addressing any concerns.

I will be happy to stand for questions. However, other conferees may be better equipped to answer specific questions about the bill. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important lifesaving legislation and I look forward to seeing this legislation in the Senate.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellie Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.