

March 15, 2024

Senator Baumgardner, Chair
Senate Education Committee
HB 2494- Proponent

A study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that, in 2010, 1 in 250 to 1 in 59 children and teens were living with a congenital heart defect. Ongoing specialty care helps people with heart defects live as healthy a life as possible. I am one of those teenagers.

My twin brother Rocky who lived with the same heart condition as me, undetected, is just one of 23,000 children who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year in the United States. While Rocky received CPR, it took medical professionals over 20 minutes to arrive at the scene. We will never know if an AED would have saved him, but in schools with AEDs, 70% of children survive cardiac arrest. That's seven times the overall survival rate for children.

I need to know that my school is prepared to save me if a similar situation to my brother's occurs.

The American Heart Association is working to turn bystanders into lifesavers, so that in the time of cardiac emergency anyone, anywhere is prepared and empowered to become a vital link in the chain of survival and provide CPR. That means ensuring that every school and athletic event and facility has a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan in place and is working directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the CERP into the community's EMS responder protocols.

Please support HB 2494 to give both me and my family peace of mind to know that my school is better prepared to respond in an emergency to save me and other kids.

Sincerely,

Alias Delfs
Rocky's brother
Atchison, Kansas