

Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment

Written Testimony

William Marbray

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Hello Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Fagan. My name is William Marbray, and I am a Senior at Marriotts Ridge High School in Howard County Maryland. I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you why Senate Bill 1024, which would require schools to implement cardiac emergency action plans, is incredibly important to me and will help all youth in our State. I want to thank Senator Brooks for inviting me here today.

In February of 2022 during my sophomore year of high school, I was playing in a soccer game as a member of the Maryland State Olympic Development Program Team. In 2022 I had been playing soccer for around twelve years and had never experienced signs of having a cardiac issue, but on February 19, 2022, all of a sudden, I collapsed to the turf during my game and went into sudden cardiac arrest.

Even in the midst of all of this confusion and distress, people nearby leaped into action. CPR was almost immediately administered to me by a parent who was watching the game, and soon after AED shocks were delivered to me and ended up saving my life. I was later transported to Johns Hopkins Hospital where I underwent open heart surgery to repair the issue that had caused my sudden cardiac arrest. Fortunately the surgery was successful and I was placed on a full athletic restriction while I healed and recovered. However after 5 months of recovery time, I was fully

cleared by my cardiologist to play soccer again. I have been lucky enough to have been playing again since then for my high school team, a club team and even returning to the Maryland State team. Today, I am about to graduate and plan to continue playing soccer in college while majoring in accounting.

Even though I am very blessed to be in the position that I am today, I believe this would not be the case if the organizers of the tournament I was in in February 2022 had not had a plan to respond to my cardiac emergency. I was one of the lucky ones. Youth every month lose their lives to cardiac emergencies, and too often the reason is because there wasn't a plan in place to respond to one of these emergencies. Passing Senate Bill 1024 will increase the chances of survival for young athletes in the state of Maryland. I am here to ask that you pass SB 1024.

Thank you.

