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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 288 Food Service Facilities - Automated External Defibrillator Program (Joe Sheya Act)

Good afternoon, Chairman Peña-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Kelly, and honorable members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present HB 288 - Food Service Facilities - Automated External Defibrillator Program (Joe Sheya Act). This bill's purpose is to require certain food service facilities to develop and install an automated external defibrillator (AED) program.

I know that this bill will save lives. An AED's purpose is to help against a sudden cardiac arrest, which can happen to anyone at any time. This program would allow the public to be able to use these AEDs in times of emergency, following the simple instructions on the equipment to bid time until the emergency responders can arrive on the scene.

Cardiac arrest is when a person's heart suddenly stops beating. Many victims have no prior history of heart disease and are stricken without warning. About 1,000 people a day die from sudden cardiac arrest.

A quick shock to the heart with an automated external defibrillator (AED) can save a person's life after cardiac arrest. An AED is a portable, battery-operated device that anyone can safely use. It checks the heart rhythm and if warranted, sends an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. The AED uses voice prompts, lights, and text messages to tell the rescuer the steps to take. AEDs are very accurate and easy to use.

After a 911 call about cardiac arrest is made, an estimated 4 to 10 minutes may pass before emergency medical services arrive. Chances of survival from sudden cardiac death diminish by 7 – 10 percent for each minute without immediate CPR or defibrillation. After 10 minutes, resuscitation rarely succeeds. They are more likely to survive a cardiac arrest, and to survive without a disability if an AED is used while waiting for emergency medical services to arrive. It can double, or even triple, survival rates. 9 in 10 cardiac arrest victims who receive a shock from an AED in the first minute live. Joe Sheya (who's late wife is here today to share her story), Buffalo Bills Cornerback Demar Hamlin's lives might've been saved by an AED.

One of our primary roles in government is to keep our residents safe—and this bill is one way we can do that. Thank you for your consideration of HB 288 - Food Service Facilities - Automated External Defibrillator Program (Joe Sheya Act) and I respectfully request a favorable report.