

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Testimony of Patrice Bullock

**Favorable HB 1219 Public Schools - Cardiac Emergency Action Plan - Requirements**

Good Afternoon Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Patrice Bullock and I am here today for my son Bailey, in strong support of HB 1219.

Improving cardiac response in Maryland high schools is very personal to me, as I lost my son, Bailey, to Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) on May 12, 2021, when he was only 16 years old. Bailey collapsed at his school after completing a 200m track event, and no one performed CPR for over 8 minutes. Once the AED was retrieved from inside the school, the AED was applied versus starting CPR. He died before the paramedics arrived.

Bailey was an incredible young man with a bright future ahead of him. He loved sports, music, and helping others. He excelled in basketball, track, and football. He dreamed of becoming a professional football player and wide receiver. He had a big heart and a smile that could brighten any room. His passing has left a massive void in my heart, my family, and our community.

As a mother, I cannot describe the pain and grief of losing a child. It is something that no parent should ever have to experience. Every day, I miss his voice, his hug, his laugh. Every day, I wonder what he would be doing now, what he would have achieved, what he would have become.

As you might be aware, SCA is the leading cause of death in young athletes and the number one killer on school campuses. It can strike anyone, anytime, anywhere, without warning or symptoms. But it is not inevitable. It is preventable. With proper cardiac response, the survival rate of SCA victims can increase from 10% to 70%.

I urge you to support HB 1219. This bill would save lives and spare families from the tragedy that we have endured. It would honor Bailey's memory and his legacy.