



February 26th, 2024

Testimony of Laura Hale

American Heart Association

Support HB 1219 Public Schools - Cardiac Emergency Action Plan - Requirements

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

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important legislation for heart health. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association extends its support for HB 1219 Public Schools - Cardiac Emergency Action Plan – Requirements and support the sponsor amendments.

It is estimated that there are more than 23,000 children under the age of 18 who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year in the United States. Almost 40% of these events are sports-related. This legislation can help to make sure that kids come home when these events happen at school.

Today we have two mothers here to tell their stories of the difference that having these kinds of plans can make. When cardiac arrest occurs outside of a hospital, survival more than doubles when people nearby take action by dialing 911, starting CPR and using a publicly available AED compared to waiting for emergency responders to arrive. Having plans in place with people trained means lives saved and people coming home.

We ask for a favorable report of HB 1219 to make sure our schools are fully prepared to respond when cardiac events happen as school sporting events.