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April 8, 2013

Honorable Mark Hass, Chair  
Education and Workforce Development Committee  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Via E-mail: [HassM@leg.state.or.us](mailto:HassM@leg.state.or.us)

**RE: Senate Bill 818**

Dear Senator Hass,

On behalf of Parent Heart Watch, I want to extend our support for Senate Bill 818, to protect student athletes from cardiac incidents such as commotio cordis.

According to our database, at least 60% of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in young people occur on school property. Educating school personnel on how to recognize SCA when it occurs is paramount in saving lives. Also, increasing the availability of publicly accessible automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in these facilities will strengthen the execution of the cardiac chain of survival, a vital component for survival from sudden cardiac arrest.

It is critical that each school have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and a reasonable number of school personnel trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED use to properly implement the vital links of the cardiac chain-of-survival: Early recognition of SCA; Early access to 911; Early CPR; Early defibrillation; and Early advanced care.

Parent Heart Watch is the national voice solely dedicated to protecting youth from Sudden Cardiac Arrest and preventable Sudden Cardiac Death. Parent Heart Watch leads and empowers others by sharing information, educating and advocating for change. For more information, please visit [www.parentheartwatch.org](http://www.parentheartwatch.org).

Attached is a sample of educational material on commotio cordis.

Sincerely,

Martha Lopez-Anderson  
Chairperson, Board of Directors