

To: Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee

Re: Senate Bill 818

April 9, 2013

Members of the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee:

Every year, a number of youths fall victim to Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD). The third leading cause of SCD is commotio cordis. Commotio cordis is caused when a blunt, non-penetrating object strikes the chest (baseball, softball, soccer ball, tackle, etc.) and causes a ventricular arrhythmia in an otherwise normal heart. Commotio cordis is unpredictable, unexpected, and to a large extent difficult to prevent.

The single biggest factor in surviving Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) associated with commotio cordis is the time from arrest to defibrillation—the shorter that time period, the greater the survival rate. Senate Bill 818 is a great step in working toward recognizing a cardiac episode and decreasing the time from arrest through the implementation of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). By having trained staff on hand who are trained to assess the situation and respond quickly, the response times will be reduced and we will increase the likelihood of survival in SCA.

The Oregon Athletic Trainer's Society is strongly in support of this bill and would like to thank Senators Anderson and Bates, and Representatives Gelser, Keny-Guyer, Lively, and Thompson for bringing it forward and supporting it. Athletic trainers (ATs) are commonly a first responder in situations like this, but many school districts do not have the services of an AT. Anything that improves the care and attention that our youths receive should be supported. This is an inexpensive option that is easily implemented or incorporated into existing EAPs and can have a very dramatic impact.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,



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