

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, thank you for hearing Senate Bill 818 today.

We are here to support this measure because we lost our son, Austin, when he was only 11 years old to Commotio cordis we been told by medical examiner. (*Commotio cordis is an often lethal disruption of heart rhythm that occurs as a result of a blow to the area directly over the heart, at a critical time during the cycle of a heart beat*).

Austin died during school recess. The kids were playing flag football and he was hit in the chest with the ball. He fell to the ground and within a few minutes he was gone. He would be alive if the person who were suppose to be watching kids that day **was** there, watching kids, paying close attention, having a defibrillator right there by her side.

Schools must have information for kids, parents and students on risks and what to do in these traumatic situations. It could help avoid tragedies.

When commotio cordis occurs, you do not have much time to react, to save a life.

Negligence of school's staff, not knowing what to do (CPR and defibrillator), not having defibrillator on the field where the kids were playing, took Austin from us.

It is very sad that the school thinks it was an accident, we think they took our boy, our life, our future due to their lack of preparation for these kinds of situations.

As a parent, I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

Marina and Alexander Sergeev