

Submitter: Joshua Lupton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2529

I am writing in support of HB 2529. I am a sudden cardiac arrest survivor, emergency medicine physician, and co-founder of the Oregon Chapter of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation. I am an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at OHSU and research sudden cardiac arrest occurring outside of the hospital, including running a large registry and an NIH-funded clinical trial in Oregon. I can say unequivocally, even a moment saved by better planning in how to respond to a cardiac emergency can mean the difference between life and death.

My cardiac arrest occurred when I was 27 years-old while running a half-marathon in Frederick, Maryland as a 3rd year medical student at Johns Hopkins. I am alive today, and back in Oregon where I grew up and went to high school and college, because an AED was nearby and there was a plan in place for how to use it. If not for this, I wouldn't be alive, my three children wouldn't have been born, and I wouldn't be back home in Oregon where I can work tirelessly to help improve survival for Oregonians suffering cardiac arrest.

Two years before my cardiac arrest, a woman in her 30s was running the same half-marathon as I did when she suffered a cardiac arrest. She died. In the two years between her arrest and my arrest, the city and emergency response agencies specifically invested in training and planning for cardiac emergencies at events like half-marathons - much like the simple planning for emergencies in HB 2529. Even precious seconds saved from this planning can have make the difference in survival, as it did for me.

Having a cardiac emergency response plan at this race helped ensure my survival. I am asking you – as a cardiac arrest survivor, as a parent of children at higher risk of cardiac arrest, as an emergency medicine physician, as an expert and researcher on cardiac arrest care outside the hospital, and as an Oregonian – please pass HB 2529.

Thank you,
Joshua Lupton, MD, MPH, MPhil