

Submitter: Maureen Legg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2529

On behalf of the Eric Paredes Save A Life Foundation, we lend our support to HB2529 and its intention to incorporate better cardiac emergency preparedness into school safety plans. This important legislation will ensure specific steps are in place to reduce death from cardiac arrest in school settings and ensures that school responders are trained on how to execute them.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death on school campuses and the #1 killer of student athletes. With nearly 1 million K-12 students enrolled in Oregon's public and public schools, plus over 30,000 staff (FTE, public school) and estimates that 20% of the population is on a school campus on any given day, it is important for school facilities to have a plan in place to address cardiac arrest. In schools with cardiac emergency response plans up to 70% survive cardiac arrest — five times the average of Oregon's <14% survival rate.

The safety of students, school staff, and visitors can be enhanced when written and well-practiced response plans are in place, school teams are trained and empowered to enact them and school communities are drilled to administer lifesaving care until emergency medical services arrive. HB2529 does just that. About 30% of states require this critical level of safety in their school communities. Thank you for your role in making Oregon part of this distinguished cohort of thought-leaders.