



March 24, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee:

On behalf of Portland Public Schools, I write to you in support of HB 2529, the cardiac emergency response plan bill.

HB 2529 is a critical bill that supports school districts and ESDs to develop plans to respond swiftly and effectively to cardiac emergencies on school campuses. Cardiac arrest represents a public health risk to youth and high school athletes in the United States and is the leading non-traumatic cause of death among young athletes. Early access to 911, CPR and AEDs are essential links in the chain of survival.

At PPS, we are proud to have robust student athletic programs and want to ensure that we have the tools and resources needed to serve our students and families in the event of a cardiac emergency.

While we support this policy, we want to ensure that the state pairs this bill with an appropriate level of investment to implement this policy effectively. Requiring school districts to have and maintain automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and have trained staff will require funding for the resources, training, and professional development. We hope the Legislature will pass this policy AND fund these necessary updates and changes. Thank you for your support.

Thank you,

Jenny Withycombe
Assistant Director of Health and Physical Education
Portland Public Schools