

CERP in Schools // HB 4160

House Testimony

Introduction

Good afternoon Chair Hudson; Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, members of the committee. For the record, My name is Aaron Lewis and I am testifying on behalf of State Representative Dacia Grayber, House District 28. I am here today in support of House Bill 4160, which will create Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in schools, and save the lives of Oregon children who experience sudden cardiac arrest.

For every minute without CPR, the chances that someone suffering a heart attack survives decreases by 10%. Studies show that well-implemented cardiac emergency response plans can more than **double** survival rates by ensuring that trained personnel quickly initiate CPR, call 911, and use an AED when needed.

Representative Grayber knows this well. As a firefighter and EMT, she's responded to cardiac emergencies in schools. She's even resuscitated a student who suffered cardiac arrest—the leading cause of death among young athletes—on an athletic field. I often hear her say: first responders need folks to be “help before the help arrives.” This is particularly true in rural and frontier communities where emergency response can take a little longer. With a CERP in place, and AEDs more easily accessible, more people can be that help, prepared to prevent the kind of tragedy that all of us hope we never have to face.

Schools must be equipped to respond to cardiac emergencies, just as they prepare for fires, earthquakes, and other crises. Implementing Cardiac Emergency Response Plans is a **proven strategy** that saves lives and ensures a safer learning environment for all.

Rep. Grayber and I strongly urge your support for HB 4160. Thank you.