

Support for HB 4160

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan



February 12, 2026

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Oregon PTA and the thousands of parents, educators, and community members we represent across the state, we urge your support for HB 4160 which strengthens emergency preparedness in Oregon schools.

Sudden cardiac arrest can occur without warning in children and adults. When it does, immediate access to CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) dramatically improves survival outcomes. Establishing a clear, practiced Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) in every school is practical and lifesaving.

Parents expect that when their children walk into school each day there is a coordinated plan in place for medical emergencies. For the many of us who have children on sports teams or are coaches ourselves, it would be reassuring to know schools had the equipment that can make the difference in a situation where seconds matter. HB 4160 helps ensure this expectation is met consistently statewide, and we strongly support the bill's comprehensive approach. A statewide standard and support for implementation helps ensure that response protocols are not dependent on individual school capacity or local resources.

Equity must remain central to implementation. Students in rural communities often face longer emergency response times, making on-site preparedness even more critical. Smaller and under-resourced districts may lack full-time nursing staff or additional administrative capacity to absorb new requirements. Without consistent standards and adequate access, disparities in resources can translate into disparities in readiness.

For this reason, Oregon PTA respectfully urges the Legislature to ensure that HB 4160 is paired with adequate and sustainable implementation support. While AED devices may be relatively affordable, effective implementation includes staff time along with ongoing maintenance and replacement of AED components. These operational responsibilities carry real costs for districts already navigating staffing shortages and budget constraints.

When Oregon establishes this important statewide safety standard, every school must have the capacity to meet it fully and equitably. Providing dedicated resources will help ensure consistent, sustainable implementation and maximize the lifesaving potential of this legislation.

Robin Roemer, VP for Legislative Advocacy Oregon PTA