



From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
EMS and Fire Chapter of SDAO

Date: February 23, 2026

Re: HB 4160 A Testimony

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA)** and the **SDAO Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chapter (SDAO Fire and EMS Chapter)**, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 4160 A. The OFCA and SDAO Fire and EMS Chapter represent over 300 municipal fire departments, rural fire protection districts, and other fire agencies across Oregon.

Oregon's fire service strongly supports the placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools and recognizes their proven ability to save the lives of both students and adults experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Early defibrillation is critical in cardiac arrest and ensuring AED access in school environments is an important public-safety goal.

AEDs are most effective when they are retrieved and applied immediately by individuals already on scene. Under HB 4160 A this would include coaches and other school-designated appropriate staff. The bill requires that the locations of AEDs are to be shared with local emergency medical service providers. However, the locations of AEDs are primarily important to individuals already at the school. Fire and EMS responders will continue to follow established response criteria and bring their own equipment directly to the patient. It is important that AEDs be used as soon as possible by trained individuals on-site and should already be on the patient when first responders reach the scene.

While the fire service seeks to improve life safety systems, we did want to emphasize that our members are operating under significant resource constraints and are uncertain about whether, in certain locations, their resources would be required for implementing this bill. Otherwise, the OFCA and SDAO Fire and EMS Chapter support the intent of HB 4160 and expect that greater distribution of AEDs and trained school personnel would improve cardiac arrest outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 4160 A.