



KNIGHT  
CARDIOVASCULAR  
Institute

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Dear Chair Fredrick and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Bradley Petek, and I am the current Director of Sports Cardiology at Oregon Health and Science University. I serve as a sports cardiologist for numerous teams/organizations throughout the state of Oregon. Today, I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 4160.

I have worked to lead research on sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in young competitive athletes on an international level. In our prior studies, we have demonstrated sudden cardiac arrest is the number one medical cause of death in young competitive athletes,<sup>(1)</sup> and the numbers can be quite scary if you look closely. For example, the risk of a sudden cardiac arrest event in NCAA Division 1 male Black basketball players is around 1/500. Additionally, there are significant disparities among those who survive a sudden cardiac arrest event.<sup>(2)</sup> However, it has been demonstrated countless times that a comprehensive plan, like a cardiac emergency response plan, saves lives and I know this will be the case for children throughout the state of Oregon with this bill.

Another consideration is there are possible medicolegal implications of not having an adequate emergency response. Our research demonstrates that more than 1/3 of lawsuits involving malpractice cases for young competitive athletes with heart conditions are due to an inadequate cardiac emergency response,<sup>(3)</sup> with settlements in the millions of dollars. This includes lack or delays in bystander CPR, lack of an AED present or the AED not being used, or no recognition of an SCA event. We need to equip our schools with the tools to not only ensure positive outcomes in SCA but also decrease Oregon schools' liability for not responding to a SCA event correctly.

A cardiac emergency response plan is straightforward to implement and seamlessly integrates into existing systems without placing an undue burden on schools. Similar bills have been passed in numerous other states across the country. I urge the committee to pass House Bill 4160 to protect our students and athletes. Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns.

1. Petek BJ, Churchill TW, Moulson N et al. Sudden Cardiac Death in National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletes: A 20-Year Study. *Circulation* 2024;149:80-90.
2. Petek BJ, Churchill TW, Moulson N et al. Survival Outcomes After Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Young Competitive Athletes From the United States. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2025.
3. Weller SL, Barat M, Weller Z et al. Medical Malpractice Claims for Sports Cardiology Cases Among Young Athletes. *JACC: Advances* 2025;4:101915.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJ Petek'.

Bradley J. Petek, MD, FACC