



**TO: Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber
and Members of the Senate Education Committee**

FR: Sabrina Riggs
On behalf of the Oregon State Ambulance Association
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RE: Support for HB 4160A

Submitted electronically on February 24, 2026

The Oregon State Ambulance Association (OSAA) is the membership organization of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers. Our members are public, private, non-profit, ground and air EMS agencies serving all corners of the state. OSAA writes to express our support of HB 4160A, which will require schools to adopt cardiac emergency response plan.

Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are life-saving tools. But for them to save lives, people must know where they are, and they must be operational. HB 4160A will help to ensure that the locations of the AEDs are known, that they are accessible, and that they are tested and maintained appropriately.

Cardiac events can strike at any age, and are the leading cause of death among young athletes. Yet, of the people with cardiac arrest who receive a shock from an AED in the first minute, 9 out of 10 live. When a cardiac arrest occurs, every second matters.

Even in the best circumstances, there is always a gap between the moment the cardiac arrest happens and when 911 is called, and the moment EMS arrives on scene. That gap can be where lives are either saved or lost. The difference between EMS arriving at a scene where CPR is already in progress and an AED has been applied versus arriving where no intervention has begun is profound. When school staff are trained and AEDs are clearly located and accessible, the chain of survival is already in motion before EMS arrives.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and our testimony. The Oregon State Ambulance Association respectfully urges your support of HB 4160A.

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