

Chair Fredrick, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is **Lori Sattenspiel**, and I am here on behalf of the **Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA)** and the **Oregon Athletic Trainers' Society (OATS)**.

We all share the same goal: preventing the tragic loss of even one student. The intent of HB 4160 is strong. But the policy still needs refinement to ensure it works for districts across Oregon.

I also want to thank Christina from the American Heart Association for her continued partnership. This work matters deeply, and we appreciate AHA's collaboration with OSAA and OATS.

Background

Last session, the Legislature considered a different AED bill — **HB 2529**. That bill required districts to adopt a detailed cardiac emergency response plan and included a funding source. Ultimately, the funding did not materialize, and the bill remained in Ways & Means at sine die.

This session, **HB 4160** takes a slimmer approach. It still requires districts to adopt a cardiac emergency plan, ensures coaches are trained in CPR and AED use, and directs schools to follow guidelines from a national organization — which is where the question of **how many AEDs are needed** and becomes a fiscal challenge for districts.

OSAA's Existing Work

I want to acknowledge that OSAA already provides extensive health and safety resources through its **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)**. SMAC sets statewide guidance for OSAA activities, including:

- Concussion management
- Heat illness prevention
- Hydration and acclimatization
- Infectious disease guidance
- Emergency action planning for athletics

OSAA has required member schools to have an **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** since 2015. OSAA is open to amending that policy to require **venue-specific EAPs** that include a cardiac emergency response component and are practiced annually.

OSAA and OATS have also discussed surveying schools to determine what policies, AED access, and training requirements already exist — though that data may now need updating.

Through the OSAA Foundation, the NFHS, and the David Heller Foundation, OSAA has spent the past 20 years helping schools acquire discounted AEDs. OSAA has also run two statewide

EAP campaigns — in 2019–20 and 2023–24 — focused on venue-specific EAPs, seasonal drills, and best-practice tools available on OSAA’s website.

OSAA is doing outreach. The question is how to align that work with any new statewide mandate.

Implementation Concerns with HB 4160

There are several areas of the bill that still need discussion:

- **Unlocked AEDs:** Some athletic venues face real risks of vandalism or theft — and we are hearing these concerns directly from schools.
- **Sharing AED locations with EMS:** After speaking with EMS personnel, they emphasized that dispatchers, not individual responders, direct emergency actions. This requirement may add burden without improving outcomes.
- **Training costs:** Oregon has an estimated **10,000 coaches**. We do not know how many are already trained, which creates a fiscal impact for districts.

Role of the Oregon Department of Education

I also want to raise concern about the absence of the **Oregon Department of Education** in this conversation. When districts face confusion about a new requirement, they turn to ODE for guidance. We should not create a policy that districts must implement without ODE’s involvement in shaping the guidance they will be expected to provide.

We saw this with **HB 3007**; the concussion legislation passed in 2025. ODE worked hard to support implementation, but there are still challenges with return-to-learn and return-to-play. We may need a cleanup bill in 2027. I want to avoid repeating that experience with cardiac emergency planning.

Rural Schools

Finally, wearing my school district hat, I want to ensure we do not unintentionally harm opportunities for students in rural Oregon. Rural schools face:

- Limited coaching staff
- Smaller student populations
- Travel distances
- Higher transportation costs

For them, this could be a much bigger lift.

Districts are asking for clarity on:

- Whether ODE will provide guidance or rulemaking
- Whether the state intends to fund AED purchases and training requirements

We all share the same goal: keeping students safe. With additional conversations — and potentially bringing this back in 2027 — we can achieve that goal without creating confusion or unintended consequences for schools.

Thank you for your time.