



House Education Committee

HB 1363

January 27, 2025

Chairman Heinert and Committee Members, I am Courtney Koebele, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students. NDMA supports HB 1363.

The Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is a written document that establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting—be it a school, community organization, workplace, or sports facility. It is necessary to ensure schools are prepared to respond to a time-sensitive emergency. Survival from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is higher at schools that have developed CERPs compared to schools that have not.

Policies that provide evidence-based guidelines and standards for schools to implement CERPs have the potential to benefit any student, staff member, or school visitor. Training school staff and students allows the knowledge to be applied anywhere needed. A carefully orchestrated plan will reduce deaths in school settings and ensure that chaos does not lead to an improper or no response. Preparation is the key to saving lives.

A well-developed plan is essential for the best outcomes during a cardiac emergency. Nearly 47% of sports-related SCAs are caused by pulseless ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation, and an AED ‘shock’ can restore normal heart rhythm.

When CPR and defibrillation are performed within 3 minutes of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), the survival rate can increase to around 74%, significantly higher than if these interventions are administered after the 3-minute window. As part of the plan, this significantly improves outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.