



Chairman Heinert and Members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 1363, which proposes requiring schools to develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan. I am here representing the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders which represents our K12 school leaders in North Dakota including our Superintendents, Principals, CTE Directors, SPED directors, Business Officials, REA Directors, Technology Directors, and Athletic

While the goal of improving preparedness for cardiac emergencies is admirable, the practical challenges of implementing this mandate create significant concerns for school districts across the state.

House Bill 1363 aims to encompass all school activities and athletic practices at every level, which is a highly ambitious undertaking. Schools host numerous events across various locations, often simultaneously, making it difficult for teams to cover all events. This requirement adds logistical complexity that many schools may find overwhelming, especially smaller districts with limited resources.

The bill's stipulation for periodic training of school personnel adds to the already heavy training mandates placed on educators. Teachers and staff are currently required to complete numerous training programs. Adding another mandatory training further strains their time and distracts from their primary focus on student instruction. Furthermore, coaches are already required to receive CPR and AED training,

The establishment and activation of a cardiac emergency response team, as mandated by the bill, pose additional staffing challenges. Many schools are already struggling with staff shortages, and requiring personnel to fulfill additional roles may lead to burnout and decreased efficiency in other critical areas. Ensuring proper supervision and coordination of emergency response drills and training could also divert staff from their instructional or administrative duties.

The one-size-fits-all approach outlined in the bill undermines the flexibility that local school districts need to address their unique circumstances. Schools are best positioned to assess their specific risks, resources, and logistical capabilities. Mandating a uniform plan across all schools, regardless of size or location, fails to account for the diversity of North Dakota's educational institutions and their varying needs.

It is also essential to address the issue of liability. Schools implementing a cardiac emergency response plan should be granted immunity from liability if an incident occurs despite their best efforts to comply with the mandates. Without such protections, schools may face legal risks that further discourage compliance and strain already limited resources.

In closing, while the intent of House Bill No. 1363 to enhance cardiac emergency preparedness is commendable, the practical challenges of its implementation cannot be overlooked. We



respectfully urge the committee to consider the burdens this bill places on schools and to explore alternative approaches that balance safety with practicality. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.