

HB 1363 – CERPS 2025 Testimony

Chairman Heinert, & members of the House Education Committee. For the record, I am Tony Burke, Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association.

As you have heard in previous testimony, this is a lifesaving bill! With over 100 years of advancements, and community engagement, the American Heart Association is focused on creating a Nation of Lifesavers and this bill will be a critical step in doing so.

With the passage of HB 1363, the American Heart Association, in partnership with the Smart Hearts Sports Coalition, are ready to walk alongside North Dakotans to implement Cardiac Emergency Response Plans in schools and athletic facilities. With plug and play tools, like a CERP Implementation Guide, Checklist for Schools, Sports and communities, we are ready to create a Nation of Lifesavers with North Dakotans.

Nationwide, 10 states have passed policies for CERPS in Schools and 18 states have passed policies for CERPS in Athletics. Currently, we are tracking 20 bills that are active (*been introduced and have bill numbers*) and we are expecting 16-18 more which are either in drafting or awaiting session to start.

In fact, American Heart Association Community Impact staff, and volunteers, have already worked with, or currently working with schools like Killdeer, Rugby, South Heart High School, Billings and more.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my testimony. I am available to address any questions. Thank you.