



Testimony in Support of HB 1363

Senate Education Committee

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the American Heart Association in support of House Bill 1363. AHA is a nonpartisan, not for profit organization with more than 500 North Dakota AHA volunteers who advocate for longer and healthier lives. AHA's mission is to reduce death and disability from heart disease and stroke.

Approximately 23,000 children experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year in the U.S. and in schools with AEDs, 70% of children survive cardiac arrest. That's 7x the overall survival rate for children.

A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan or CERP is a written document that establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in school settings. This document can be stand-alone guidelines or merged with a school's existing medical emergency response plans. The plan would be posted at key locations throughout the school and practiced regularly. HB 1363 will save lives by having CERP's adopted by the district crisis management team.

The passage of HB 1363 will enable the American Heart Association, in partnership with the Smart Hearts Sports Coalition, to assist North Dakotans in implementing Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) in schools and athletic facilities. AHA will help assist where we can with ready-to-use tools like a CERP Implementation Guide and Checklist for Schools, Sports, and Communities.

American Heart Association Community Impact staff and volunteers have already collaborated with schools across North Dakota. Currently, 10 states have enacted policies for CERPs in schools, and 18 states have policies for CERPs in athletics and we are monitoring over 25 active bills on this issue.

Thank you for your time, we Support HB 1363 and encourage a DO PASS recommendation.