



January 27, 2025

Representative Goetz, Chair
House Committee on K-12 Budget
CPR in Schools Funding- Proponent

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on the K-12 Education Budget. The American Heart Association (the Association) respectfully requests funding to support the instruction of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in schools in support of the existing health curricula standard. This standard is part of the graduation requirement for Kansas Public Schools.

The Association has a goal to create a nation of lifesavers turning bystanders into lifesavers, so that in the time of cardiac emergency anyone, anywhere is prepared and empowered to become a vital link in the chain of survival providing CPR, including the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) whenever possible. **Kansas is leading the way in this important work!** Last year, the House Education Committee championed SB 19, which requires the board of education in each school district to establish a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) for each school. These plans require placement of AEDs and CPR training of designated staff. Thanks to the House's nearly unanimous support, it became law. Our appropriation request seeks to maximize the impact of CERP by utilizing trained school staff to pass their lifesaving skills along to Kansas youth.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death. More than 350,000 people have cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year, and only 1 in 10 survive, most likely because they received timely CPR. Conversely: About 90% of people who suffer cardiac arrests outside of a hospital die. Given right away, CPR doubles or triples survival rates -- cardiac arrest is reversible for most victims if it's treated within a few minutes.

National center for education statistics shows that there were almost 488,000 children enrolled in Kansas public schools in 2022 and almost 35,000 graduating seniors projected for the 25/26 school year. **The Association sees an opportunity to get the most out of CERP implementation, by encouraging greater uptake of the CPR health education curricula. \$250,000 would allow the purchase of CPR training kits, which include mannequins and AED training components.** Youth as young as 9 years old can learn how to save lives and with 70% of cardiac events occurring in homes, this is imperative. The American Heart Association wants all students to learn CPR to create a generation of people that are prepared to act in an emergency, putting more qualified lifesavers in our communities - creating the next Generation of Heartsavers™.

Sincerely,

Kari Rinker
Region Sr State Government Relations Lead
American Heart Association