



February 14, 2022

Representative Steve Huebert
State of Kansas
House Committee on Education
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

Representative Huebert

On behalf of the Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society I would like to provide some suggestions for consideration by the House Committee on Education on HB 2659 by Representatives Lynn and Stogsdill; *"Enacting the sudden cardiac arrest prevention act to require school information and policies to address sudden cardiac arrest in school athletic activities."*

The Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society executive board has reviewed this bill and has shared the following suggestions with the Kansas School Nurses Organization and the Kansas State High School Activities Association. The suggestions we wish to propose are as follows:

- On page 1 line 11 A we would like to see "interscholastic athletics" changed to "all interscholastic activities governed by KSHSAA" (This would include band, drama, etc.)
- On page 1 line 21 we believe Kansas State High School Athletic Association (KSHSAA) would be more appropriate than the Kansas State Department of Education to develop and publish the guidelines for this protocol. They currently provide guidance and regulation of similar training for their member schools across Kansas.
- On page 1 line 36 to page 2 line 4, we are not sure this needs to be included in the bill. How would this ensure the safety of students from sudden cardiac death?
- On page 2, d (1) Please provide what steps will be required for an athlete to return if they are removed from activity following a syncopal event. Please keep in mind, there are many reasons that can lead to a syncopal event and not all are related to cardiac issues.
- On page 2 line 16, A parent or guardian should not be allowed to clear their athlete to return to the activity. Please make clear that an exam by an appropriate healthcare professional will be required for students to return to participation in activity. The healthcare professional will need to decide if the syncopal episode is cardiac related or not. This is worded such that it seems to be a parent's or guardian's choice to return the athlete without an exam.
- On page 2, line 21 e (1), KSHSAA currently requires all coaches to be CPR and AED trained including a hands on component. The Simon's Heart training is an online program only; therefore is less than what is already required training for Kansas Coaches. KSHSAA should decide what training is appropriate.
- On page 2 line 41 (g), this should read "all school staff" rather than just coaches.
- The medical professionals allowed to do the exam to return a student to play following a symptomatic episode that caused removal from activity, needs to be defined, such as DO, MD, etc.



The Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society respectfully requests Representative Lynn and Stogsdill and the Kansas House Committee on Education consider these recommendations for HB2659. We are willing to work with Representatives Lynn and Stogsdill, the Kansas School Nurses Organization and Kansas State High School Activities Association to develop amendments to this bill to strengthen its impact on the safety of Kansas youth participating in activities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Phillip Vardiman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Phillip Vardiman, PhD, LAT, ATC
President, Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society