

NEUTRAL - Written Testimony re HB 2494

House Committee on Education

January 17, 2024

Submitted by: Bill Faflick, Executive Director, Kansas State High School Activities Association

Chairman Thomas and Committee Members:

Thank you for the scheduled hearing on the important issues of school safety and security and cardiac emergency preparedness. The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) supports the principles of giving guidance on safe and secure schools and cardiac emergency plans and have in place guidance and expectations regarding planning and responding to a cardiac crisis.

The KSHSAA currently maintains the requirement that all coaches and directors of interscholastic activities be trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Such training is required for head coaches/directors as well as all assistant coach/directors. The training must be completed every two years, and it requires a hands-on component. The training must be provided by a licensed CPR/AED instructor. This requirement is codified in the *KSHSAA Handbook* (<https://www.kshsaa.org/Publications/Handbook.pdf>) as part of *Rule 10 - Qualifications Of Coaches (Athletic, Spirit, Scholars Bowl, Debate and Speech) and Music Directors*.

Additionally, the KSHSAA has deployed a best practice protocol which details a rehearsal of the crisis plan for all teams. During the first two weeks of practice, that training is scheduled on the adopted standardized calendar followed by all member schools. This rehearsal is valuable for our students and staff as it is venue and activity specific yet is also transferable to other school locations and settings as students learn the location of AED's and expectations of how to respond in a crisis. While some schools prefer their own emergency action plan format, the KSHSAA does provide a crisis response template and additional guidance available via <https://www.kshsaa.org/Public/SportsMedicine/EmergencyActionPlanning.cfm>.

Finally, the KSHSAA expects schools to conduct a "pre-game timeout" prior to any activity hosted in their building. During that meeting, a review of the emergency action plan, key staff members and their responsibilities, the location of the AED, and more is reviewed. Further detail is available at <https://www.kshsaa.org/Public/SportsMedicine/Pre-ActivityTimeOut.cfm>.

It is hard to argue the development of expectations regarding the need to be prepared to respond to a cardiac issue. If such an expectation is codified in statute, the KSHSAA respectfully asks that financial support be provided from funds under the control of the elected leadership.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.