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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham  
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs  
Oral Testimony – Proponent  
Senate Committee on Education  
House Bill 2494  
March 19, 2024

Chairperson Baumgardner, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2494.

HB 2494 requires automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be accessible in each school district building. Kansas NEA believes that school districts should provide a safe and healthy working environment for educators and safe and healthy learning environments for students. Because of this, we support this legislation.

However, Kansas NEA is always skeptical of unfunded mandates. That is why we are appreciative of the provision in the bill that provides grant funding for the purchase of AED devices. Kansas NEA also supports the concept in section 3 of the bill that states, *A cardiac emergency response plan may be partially implemented as funds are available and as deemed necessary by the board of education*. This will allow districts financial flexibility as they become compliant and ensure other critical appropriations are held harmless.

Educators cite the safety and well-being of their students as one of the most important responsibilities that they have. No school district employee, or any other person, should be afraid to render lifesaving care in the time of an emergency. This is why Kansas NEA is also supportive of the “Good Samaritan” provision in the bill that provides any person who in good faith renders emergency care or treatment or who provides training as required by the provisions of the bill would not be held liable for any damages.

In closing, Kansas NEA is appreciative of the process that has taken place regarding this piece of legislation. This is a shining example of collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders that were allowed to weigh in on ideas and issues of concern. As a result, should HB 2494 become law, it will almost certainly prove to be a lifesaving accomplishment.

We ask the committee to approve HB 2494.

Thank you for your time.

