



SMART HEART SPORTS COALITION

March 18, 2024

RE: HF 4008/SF 4293 – Support

To members of the Minnesota Legislature:

On behalf of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition, I write to express our strong support for HF 4008/SF 4293, companion legislation currently being considered by the Minnesota Legislature. If enacted, this crucial legislation will advance best-practice, evidence-based policies that will help to save the lives of young people who experience sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and similar cardiac emergencies throughout the state.

Launched in March of 2023, the Smart Heart Sports Coalition is comprised of leading health and patient advocacy groups, as well as major professional and college sports organizations – nearly 40 stakeholders in all. We have come together for a nationwide advocacy campaign to raise awareness and drive adoption of policies proven to prevent fatalities from SCA within school communities. These core, life-saving policies are as follows:

1. Require high schools to have in place athletic emergency action plans (EAPs) that are venue-specific, widely distributed, posted, rehearsed, and updated annually.
2. Require clearly marked automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at or in close proximity to each venue where high school practices and competitions are held.
3. Require coaches to receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and education, including in the use of AEDs.

Adopting these policies is critical, especially given that sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of sudden death among young athletes.

If enacted, HF 4008/SF 4293 will ensure that Minnesota is a leader in protecting young athletes from a preventable fatal injury. Specifically, these bills require every public school to adopt and rehearse a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) that specifies in writing the steps school personnel must take to immediately respond to a student or other individual who experiences a sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity.

These plans will ensure that Minnesota's school communities are better equipped and prepared to respond to a SCA when they occur in school communities.

We, therefore, urge the legislature to approve this important legislation as soon as possible. Doing so will expand and support a community of lifesavers in Minnesota and represent a major victory for students throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Edmonds
Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs
National Football League

Members of the Smart Heart Sports Coalition

American College of Cardiologists
American College of Sports Medicine
American Heart Association
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Red Cross
Association of Black Cardiologists
Chasing M's Foundation
Citizen CPR Foundation
Heart Rhythm Society
John Taylor Babbitt Foundation
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Major League Baseball
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National Academy of Sports Medicine
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Basketball Association
National Collegiate Athletic Association
National Council of Youth Sports
National Federation of State High School Associations
National Football League
National Football League Physicians Society
National Hockey League
National Women's Soccer League
Parent Heart Watch
Pediatric and Congenital Electrophysiology Society
Simon's Heart
Sport Safety International
Starting Hearts
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation
T.J. Carrie Foundation
United States Tennis Association
Weil Institute (The Max Harry Weil Institute for Critical Care Research)
Who We Play For
Women's National Basketball Association
Women's Tennis Association