

Brian Connell, Parent Proponent in Person HB2659

Date: 2/15/2022

Subject: Proponent & Supporter for HB2659 with the Short Title “Enacting the sudden cardiac arrest prevention act to require school information and policies to address sudden cardiac arrest in school athletic activities.” http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/measures/hb2659/

Who: Brian Connell 24447 W. 114th St. Olathe, KS 66061

Short Statement: My son is a survivor of a sudden cardiac arrest that stopped his heart on the evening of Tuesday May 6th, 2019 while he was on the pitching mound in a varsity baseball game on the fields at Blue Valley Southwest High School in Overland, Park, Kansas.. Only 1 in 10 people survive a SCA. We are blessed that it was Senior Night and the stands were full. Bystanders rushed to his body that had collapsed on that red clay and took swift action to administer CPR, get and use an AED that was nearby and restart his heard.

Annually 7,000-9,000 youth between the ages of 8 & 22 lose their lives to Sudden Cardiac Arrest. SCA is the #1 cause of death for kids on school campuses, #1 cause of death of all kids ages 8-22 anywhere and #1 cause of death overall in the United States year after year with the American Heart Assoc and American Medical Association estimating that 340,000 – 350,000 Americans of all ages die from sudden cardiac arrest EACH year.

We as parents were ignorant. We didn't know about SCA, didn't know the risks, didn't know that 1 in 400 students have a significant cardiac issue that could trigger a SCA at any moment. I wish we were less ignorant and that is why this bill is a huge start in educating kids, parents, coaches and anyone supervising activities in our schools.

This bill is designed to help kids and the community BEFORE the SCA and before experiencing that trauma of seeing, hearing and being present when a child collapses without a heart beat.

Most SCA's can be prevented. Ideally, every child would receive a comprehensive cardiac screening every 2-3 years between the ages of 8 and 22. There are firms like MyHeartCheck.org and others that perform these screenings each year in partnerships with school districts across Kansas and all across the US. Those are quick (20 mins), painless, inexpensive, comprehensive cardiac screenings that save lives. There are over 500,000 school aged kids in Kansas. This bill is not about getting each child fully screened...yet.

This bill is about helping erase the ignorance my family had about SCA in hopes that families are better educated and get ahead of any SCA that might be creeping into the near future of our children's lives.

Being proactive with coaches, administrators, parents & students is what this bill is about. And being proactive and educating more people WILL save lives. When only 1 in 10 survive a Sudden Cardiac Arrest ...we HAVE to be proactive and give every family the heads up and every child a better shot at living out their lives more fully.

Thank you