

Neutral Testimony on the Conceptual Amendment to AB454

Submitted to: Assembly Committee on Education

Date: April 8, 2025

From: Kendra Edwards, Government Relations Director

Organization: American Heart Association – Nevada

Dear Chair Torres-Fossett and Members of the Assembly Education Committee,

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA), thank you for your ongoing commitment to student safety and for your leadership in advancing policies that aim to protect the health and lives of Nevada's children.

The American Heart Association is neutral on AB454 and the related conceptual amendment, regarding cardiac emergency response plans in schools. We appreciate the intent behind this legislation and the efforts of the bill sponsors to address the urgent need for improved emergency preparedness in school settings.

AHA is deeply committed to ensuring every school is prepared to respond to sudden cardiac arrest. Our work spans all 50 states and promotes consistency and evidence-based practices in cardiac emergency response policies. With that in mind, here are a few key considerations that AHA considers crucial to a model Cardiac Emergency Response Plan:

- Emergency plans for each high school athletic venue should be widely distributed, posted, rehearsed, and updated annually.
- Clearly marked automated external defibrillators (AEDs) should be placed at each athletic venue or within 1–3 minutes of venues where high school practices or competitions are held.

- Coaches should receive CPR and AED training to ensure they are prepared to act in the event of a cardiac emergency.

We appreciate the thoughtful conversations with stakeholders working hard to bring this policy to life.

Thank you again for your commitment to student safety and for allowing the American Heart Association to provide comment. We look forward to continued partnership in making Nevada a national leader in cardiac emergency preparedness in schools.

Sincerely,
Kendra Edwards