



May 28, 2025

Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, NV

Opposition to Section 19 of SB192 – EKG Screening Requirement for Student Athletes

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Heart Association, I am writing to respectfully oppose Section 19 of SB192, which would require electrocardiogram (ECG) screenings for student athletes in counties with a population of 100,000 or more.

We understand the intent behind this section is to protect young athletes from sudden cardiac arrest. However, this specific section is not consistent with current scientific guidelines and may lead to unintended harm. The American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) have published recommendations for screening youth for being at risk for sudden cardiac arrest and they recommend a physician use a 14-element checklist to determine if the child is at risk for sudden cardiac arrest. If the child is found to be at risk at that point an ECG is recommended.

Our guidelines are generated by groups of experts in the field extensively evaluating the current research data available and then giving recommendations based on their findings. When guidelines are developed, research findings, patient safety and cost burden to the system are all taken into consideration. In general, ECGs have normal variations of normal findings which often time lead to unnecessary testing including stress tests and ECGs if taken without clinical appropriate clinical context. In addition to testing, the patient would need to be referred to a specialist to further determine if this finding is really abnormal. This would ultimately lead to significant cost burden



to either the patient or healthcare system depending on if the patient is insured. The bill does not speak to how a referral would be made and the appropriate follow-through or how these additional costs will be covered.

The AHA is committed to reducing the rates of sudden cardiac arrest and recommends key policies to increase survival rates. We encourage lawmakers to focus on proven strategies that prepare schools to act in the event of a cardiac emergency. These include requiring cardiac emergency response plans to be in place, CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) training, and access to AEDs. These approaches are backed by research, are more equitable, and save lives.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to remove Section 19 from SB192.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kendra Edwards
State Government Relations Director