

Dear Appropriations Committee Members,

I'm writing to support the inclusion of the \$150,000 grant in the FY2026 budget to help secure Vermont schools most in need of EAD's, CPR training, and EAP's relating directly to cardiac events. Cardiac events are one of the most preventable causes of death, and having an EAD within a building could mean the difference between life or death.

Some quick statistics to consider:

- Only about 40% of people who suffer a cardiac arrest get the immediate help they need before emergency responders arrive.
- Cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for student athletes.
- Cardiac emergency response plans (CERPs) can increase sudden cardiac arrest survival rates by 50% or more by enabling a trained lay-responder team to take action.

Training staff in CPR / First Aid is affordable, and should be considered a requirement for any staff involved with sport. These simple steps can drastically decrease the mortality rate of cardiac events in Vermont.

Thank you for the consideration,

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