

Project ADAM[®]

SAVES LIVES

May 1, 2023

The Honorable Cherfilus-McCormick
242 Cannon House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Posey
2150 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Cherfilus-McCormick & Bill Posey,

On behalf of Project ADAM, we write in strong support of the Access to AEDs Act (H.R.2370) that would provide life-saving defibrillation equipment and training to schools across the country. We thank you for your leadership on this important piece of legislation. At Project ADAM, we know firsthand the impact of implementing these life-saving measures in schools and communities across the country.

Project ADAM's (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory) mission is to prevent sudden cardiac death through advocacy, education, preparedness and collaboration. Children's Wisconsin's Herma Heart Institute developed the program in collaboration with the parents of Adam Lemel, a 17-year-old who died following sudden cardiac arrest while playing basketball—and whose life could have been saved had an AED or defibrillator been available that day.

Today, Project ADAM is a nationwide initiative in which 38 affiliated health care systems in 29 states assist schools and communities in establishing Heart Safe Programs which include a practiced plan to respond to sudden cardiac arrest and access to training and AEDs. Project ADAM provides the foundation for a school, community or youth sports team to develop and sustain their program, including a planning template, a reference manual and one-on-one consultation. Since Project ADAM was founded in 1999, more than 200 lives have been saved nationwide through the work of our affiliates.

While sudden cardiac arrest is uncommon in young people, it sadly does happen. And it's exactly that — sudden and unexpected. But, immediate CPR and the availability of an AED can double or triple a person's chance of survival. Because approximately 20 percent of a community is in its schools on any given day, including students, teachers, staff and family members, a focused effort on cardiac arrest and preparedness in schools is critical to protecting our children and others in the community and beyond.

At Project ADAM we believe that anywhere youth tend to gather – whether a school, athletic field, health club, community center —should have a cardiac emergency action plan in place that is practiced regularly and have the appropriate equipment and training so they're prepared to save lives. The Access to AEDs Act will help support schools to partner with community organizations to make this a reality and help prevent these unthinkable tragedies.

Project ADAM stands ready to support and be a resource to your office on this important legislation. If we can assist with advancing this legislation, please contact Lindsay Punzenberger at lpunzenberger@childrenswi.org.

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